

**Source Water Protection  
Ashland Advisory Committee**

**October 24, 2017  
Water & Sewer Commission Office**

**ATTENDEES**

Mike Izard (Lakes Regional Planning Commission)  
Mardean Badger (Planning Board)  
Eli Badger (Zoning Board of Adjustment)  
Amanda Loud (Conservation Commission)  
Alan Cilley (Water & Sewer Commission)  
David Toth (Water & Sewer Commission)  
Leigh Sharps (Board of Selectmen, Planning Board)

**NOTES**

- We first clarified and re-considered a statement from our October 10 meeting notes, "... *concentrate on protective measures needed for the current well head and aquifer areas.*" We noted the distinctions between the areas covered by the wellfield (TML 004-001-003), the wellhead protection zone, and the aquifer, each successively larger. It was agreed that we will focus on the protection of the wellhead protection area (WHPA) within Ashland that is delineated by NHDES and by Emery and Garrett.
  - Wellhead protection area (WHPA) 0.45087 sq. mi.
  - Aquifer within Bridgewater/Ashland WHPA 0.279014 sq. mi.
  - Aquifer within Ashland side of WHPA 0.195703 sq. mi.
  - Aquifer within the Ashland town boundary 2.653916 sq. mi.
  - Total size of Pemigewasset aquifer 90.15 sq. mi.
- We reviewed a cross-section sketch of the wellhead protection zone, based on a technical diagram previously prepared by Emery and Garrett for the Water and Sewer Commission. The diagram can be useful for providing the public with a basic description of the aquifer and well.
  - The well is rated for 1-2 million gallons per day, but it has the potential of 5-6 million gallons per day.
  - There are 2 sources of contaminants – one area of contamination near I-93 and a higher than suggested level of salt in the aquifer.
  - The more water that is drawn from a greater depth and in excess of 2 million gallons from the aquifer would increase the likelihood of pulling contaminants from the area of influence.
  - One well (the Avery well) has been closed (capped) for several years due to contaminants. It is not a suitable source of drinking water.
- Documents shared:
  - Three maps created by LRPC:
    - *Wellhead Protection Area with Property Boundaries and Zones*
    - *Impervious Areas within the Wellhead Protection Area*
      - Impervious areas within the WHPA is less than 15 percent currently (12.7 percent)
    - *Wellhead Protection Area with TMAX (maximum transmissivity)*
  - List of tax/map/lots within the Ashland portion of the WHPA, indicating zone, owner, and usage

- The committee reviewed a model ordinance to create a groundwater protection district as an overlay to the wellhead protection area. The ordinance was reviewed to determine the suitability/acceptability of the requirements.
  - Some minor edits were recommended. Follow-up will be done with NHDES regarding the final changes.
  - The ordinance will include permitted uses, prohibited uses, and conditional uses (permits granted by the Planning Board).
  - In Section XIV (B), it was recommended that post-construction inspections be performed by the “Code Enforcement Officer and/or the Planning Board.” DEC will be consulted regarding the inclusion of the Planning Board in this process.
  - The definitions still need to be reviewed – Where are the terms referenced in this document and how are they used? How do these definitions compare or agree with definitions in the whole of Ashland’s zoning ordinance?
  - Questions to consider: What other towns have adopted a similar ordinance? What towns have attempted and failed to adopt a similar ordinance, and why?
- A warrant article now needs to be drafted, to adopt the ordinance. Some sample ordinances will be located to provide guidance. The warrant article must clearly state the purpose, with as little technical language as possible. Mike and Mardean will work on a draft and share with committee members for input.
- A presentation will be given to the Planning Board on December 6 (their first meeting of the month), with November 29 as an alternate date. This will include a suggested warrant article, the drafted ordinance, and some visuals.
- Outreach and educational campaign suggestions:
  - Presentations to Board of Selectmen (meetings are videotaped), Water & Sewer Commission, Conservation Commission
    - Planning Board will need to determine, based on knowledge of community, whether to recommend the warrant article be presented for 2018 or a year-long educational campaign to precede a warrant for 2019.
  - Newspaper articles, Town of Ashland website, local cable channel
  - Voters guide
  - Indicate “recommended” on the warrant from BOS, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, etc.
  - Two angles of presentation to the public
    - Those who have property within the WHPA will want to know the impact on or benefits to their properties. Publication of their support would positively influence others.
    - Those outside of the WHPA will want to know the benefits to the town’s citizens as a whole (non-approval of this ordinance could result in more costly impact later).
- **Next steps**
  - Consult NHDES regarding recommended changes to the model ordinance.
  - Review definitions in the model ordinance in relation to terms in Ashland’s zoning ordinance.
  - Prepare final copy of the recommended ordinance.
  - Draft a warrant article for adoption of the ordinance.
  - Schedule a presentation time with the Planning Board (Dec 5 or Nov 29).
  - Prepare a presentation for the Planning Board.
  - Compile suggestions for an outreach campaign.