

Doylestown Township Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

Minutes of May 21, 2020 meeting, via Zoom

In attendance: Joe Van Houten, Wally Pattyson and Jenny Kimbel

Staff in attendance: Twp. Manager Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator Andrea Susten and DTMA Exec Director Keith Hass.

Absent: Gary Munkelt, John Canterbury, Bud Hutchinson, Bob Schaffer, Dan Wood

Minutes Approval: Feb. 20, 2020

On MOTION of Ms. Kimbel, seconded by Mr. Van Houten the February 20, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

Pebble Ridge Project Update

Ms. Mason provided an update on the current status. The project is currently approximately 9 weeks behind schedule. Delays were caused by rock that required additional drilling, and weather that made it difficult to get machinery onto the easement area along Old New Road. At this time, BCWSA does not think they will be able to make up for the lost time.

According to the current schedule, they should begin work on Westaway Lane within 4 weeks. It will take approximately one month to complete work on Westaway. They expect Westaway residents may be able to connect to the system sometime in August once the pump station has been tested and is set for operation.

All residents are encouraged to check on the Doylestown Township and/or the BCWSA website for the most up to date information on the schedule and progress. They plan to post an update specifically for Westaway Lane residents soon. The entire project is currently estimated to be on track for completion by the end of 2020.

537 Plan Update

Ms. Mason provided an update from John Butler at BCWSA on the current status of updating the township's 537 plan. BCWSA is leading efforts to provide reporting for the plan. Mr. Butler said that we would like to see efforts by the township to poll residents for their input on what would be considered the next phase under the plan.

Ms. Mason said that she felt it was too early to poll residents, because we have limited details at this time. The committee was in agreement. Ms. Mason will communicate to Mr. Butler that the committee

believes it is premature to poll residents at this time. A good next step will be to provide an update on the status of the 537 plan, why we are updating the plan, goals of the plan, and next steps. Ms. Mason will ask BCWSA if they would like to work with her on an article for the township newsletter.

As part of the 537 update, some areas including Turk/Sauerman Rds., and the Edison area may be needed to be completed sooner because neighbors have experienced problems. Doylestown Twp. has received a complaint from a tenant about a private pumping station behind the 7-11 that is failing. If upgraded, that pumping station may be able to be used as a pumping station for other properties in the Edison area. The situation is still ongoing.

Water Study

The Supervisors recently discussed a proposed ordinance regarding testing of private wells. The ordinance was tabled because the Supervisors wanted more information. They requested that the Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board do some research and provide more information.

Mr. Van Houten said that this was a good opportunity to do more educational outreach to make sure residents are testing private wells. The group can also develop information to share on social media. Ms. Susten said that she can share examples of brochures created by the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr. Pattyson and Ms. Kimbel briefly presented information on well maintenance and testing that they had researched. The committee will develop an outline of information that can be included in a brochure or flyer, for discussion at a future meeting. Ms. Susten said that the brochure can include links to resources that the committee finds useful.

Mr. Pattyson requested that a draft copy of the proposed ordinance be shared with the Committee. Ms. Mason said she will distribute a draft.

Other Business

Ms. Susten presented an email from John Canterbury regarding the potential to test Doylestown's storm water outfalls for COVID-19. Ms. Susten had reached out to GHD, the company who handles testing for Doylestown. GHD said that there is the potential to do these tests to determine if RNA is present, but it does not give information about whether the virus is viable. The lab cannot differentiate between active and inactive virus fragments.

Mr. Van Houten asked what the benefit would be to this testing, because we already know the virus is in our community. He asked if there was any action that we would take as a result of the information.

Mr. Hass said that we know the virus is not in the public water system because it is killed by chlorine.

After discussion, the committee felt that the testing could cause confusion or misunderstanding among the general public, without added benefit to our understanding of the virus. The committee was in agreement that it is not necessary at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 18 at 5:30 pm. Information on whether the meeting will be in person or over Zoom will be provided closer to the time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jenny Kimbel, PWSAB Member