

Reference

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
OF THE  
SPECIAL WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

Wayland, Mass., February 14, 1947

To the Citizens of the Town of Wayland:

The special committee appointed to study and report on certain problems in connection with the town water supply and distribution system herewith makes its first preliminary report.

This committee was appointed by the Town at the last annual Town Meeting, under Article 16, "(1) to make a complete study and survey of the necessity and desirability of extending water mains in those streets and roads of the Town not now served by the Town's water system; (2) to arrive at a conclusion as to the order in which the project should be done; (3) to advise the Town as to the overall requirements of the water system - the committee to include in its considerations; the water supply available, pumping equipment, storage capacity, adequacy of existing mains, the areas of probable development and the cost, and to return to the Town any recommendations it may care to make." It was further voted that the committee should consist of the three members of the Water Board, one member from the Finance Committee, one member from the Planning Board, and two members to be selected by the Moderator.

Immediately after the Town Meeting, the committee appointed the firm of Weston & Sampson, Boston, Mass., a highly qualified firm of consulting, sanitary engineers to report to the committee on the technical problems involved in the study as voted by the Town.

By date of July 29, 1946, the engineers submitted their report to the committee. This report included a study of estimated population growth and increase in water consumption, adequacy of the present works for domestic supply and fire protection, the quality of water, consideration of the installation of meters on services and the adequacy of water rates, local vs. Metropolitan supply, supplementary local supply, choice of power and pumps, and definite recommendations, with estimates of cost, for immediate future construction to increase the safe capacity of the water supply, early future construction to improve the general distribution system, and extensions of mains first required to serve new areas. The report also included some suggestions as to long-range planning for future extensions.

The first recommendation in the report was to secure immediately an increase in the water supply by the construction in the Cochituate area of a well with pumping station equipped with electric driven, automatically controlled pump, connected into the present distribution system. It was suggested that the old Town gravel pit on the south side of East Commonwealth Road might be a suitable site for such an installation.

The importance of an immediate increase in the water supply was already known both to the committee and to the citizens of the Town. Within the last three years, the Town has twice run out of water and been fortunate in the emergency to obtain water temporarily from the Town of Natick. Now that the committee knew for the first time just what type of plant was required to furnish the much needed additional supply, it proceeded to draw up an article for a special Town Meeting to obtain funds necessary to proceed with this work.

At a special Town Meeting held October 9, 1946, the Water Board was empowered to spend the sum of \$20,000 from water available surplus to acquire a site or sites to drive test wells, install a gravel packed well with pump and pump house, auxiliary equipment and pipe from the well to present main.

Immediately thereafter, the Water Board let a contract to the D. L. Maher Co., Cambridge, Mass., water supply contractors, for the driving of test wells to locate a site where an adequate supply well could be constructed. This was the first, necessary step in obtaining the needed additional supply.

The contractor went to work at once, the first test wells being driven at three places in the old gravel pit. At this location, no adequate supply of water could be obtained nor could the test wells be driven to a sufficient depth, due to the presence of ledge or boulders. Explorations were then continued along Snake Brook valley westward toward Lake Cochituate without success. Further tests were made in the vicinity of Oak St., then near Fuller Road on the shore of Lake Cochituate, next at the end of Wallace Road adjacent to Pod Meadow. Then followed tests at the east end of Pod Meadow, at locations north of Stonebridge Road about one thousand feet east of the Davieau Farm, at a location east of Old Connecticut Path adjacent to the Weston Aqueduct, also near Maiden Lane off Old Connecticut Path, and finally off Green Lane near Cochituate Road. At all of these locations, either the wells could not be driven to a suitable depth due to ledge or boulders encountered or a sufficient volume of water could not be obtained due to hardpan or clay. In all, test wells were driven in nineteen locations.

Work is continuing as the winter weather permits, both in locations adjacent to those already explored where any favorable signs have been encountered and in new locations which appear at all favorable. The committee appreciates the importance of finding a satisfactory supply in the southern part of Town, and will push the further work of exploration as speedily as possible.

At the same time that the committee was attempting to obtain funds for the construction of the new well, pump, pump house and connection to present system, it proceeded to study the requirements of the Town for future water main extensions, the order in which future mains should reasonably be installed, the cost of such extensions, and the method of financing both the improvements to the present system recommended by the consulting engineers and future main extensions to be recommended by the committee.

The committee has already prepared all of the information necessary for a final report to the Town, but it can not submit its recommendations as to the order in which the various improvements and additions should be made until the location of the new water supply is definitely established.

Meanwhile, being duly aware of the seriousness of the situation now existing, the committee will do all in its power to progress the location and construction of the new well, and, thereafter, make its final report to the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Lewis  
Alfred C. Damon  
Fern A. Taylor  
James Otis Post, Jr.  
Frank S. Tarr  
Richard M. Francis