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Re: Proposed Cemetery Expansion Request
Date: February 8, 2012

Thank you for your consideration at Monday night's BoPW meeting of the proposed DPW plan to expand the Old North Cemetery into the Baldwin Pond Wells capture zone in response to our memo of January 28, 2012. We agree with the board member's suggestion that an assessment of the possible impacts on our drinking water should be done before this proposed appropriation is brought to town meeting for approval.

It was mentioned during last night's discussion that bacteria most likely would not be a problem because of the chemical treatments at the Baldwin Pond Wells facility. While bacteria is certainly a concern, there needs to be a full review as to whether chemotherapy agents and other drugs used to treat a wide range of illnesses and conditions would be degraded or handled by the treatment processes, and/or what their possible effects could be on children as well as immunosuppressed adults should they infiltrate the groundwater.

The large number of septic systems in the capture zone is always a concern and may in fact call for the installation of sentinel wells, targeted public education, and enhanced scrutiny by the BoH and ConCom. However, this should not become an excuse for condoning the town's further unintended pollution of the groundwater, but rather a reason for more water supply protection.

As you know, in 2008 Earth Tech AECOM completed a capture zone study of the town water supply wells. Many of the available records reviewed by Doug DeNatale, Project Manager/Senior Hydrogeologist, can be found in the 'Wayland Information Resources' section of our website www.WaylandWells.com.

Additional analysis of the Happy Hollow Wells was then conducted in 2010 to further evaluate the hydrogeological data and more accurately delineate the capture zone since that wellsite was determined to have the most contamination risks to the water supply. The former Wellhead Protection Committee (WPC), as well as a former water superintendent, recommended that such a detailed evaluation be then performed at the Baldwin Pond wellsite to assess possible contamination sources, particularly in view of the town's large investment in the new water treatment facility.

Had the DPW Director approved the recommendation for further study by EarthTech AECOM, this data would now be available to your board and an informed decision could be made on this proposal. In view of the lack of sufficient data at this time on groundwater transport of pathogens and other chemicals in the capture zone, we again request that this proposed expansion be delayed until a comprehensive assessment is completed, perhaps by Earth Tech AECOM since they are already familiar with the town's geology and wellhead protection issues. Rather than move forward with an incomplete plan, please request that the FinCom pull this proposal from the capital budget expenditures since it is not yet ready for town meeting action.

Sherre Greenbaum, Jennifer Riley, Linda Segal, Thomas Sciacca & Kurt Tramposch