



Ground Water Protection Committee (GWPC)
Town office conference room, Islesboro, Maine.
Minutes: June 24, 2016.

Members Attending: Chairman David Pendleton, Secretary Dick de Grasse, Larry Hobart, John Kerr, Priscilla Fort.

The meeting was called to order by David Pendleton at 17:07.

A quorum was present.

The minutes of GWPC meeting on September 3, 2015, were redistributed.

The results of last summer samples were discussed. The 3 higher than normal total coliform readings were attributable to improper sample techniques: Faucets should be sterilized with bleach not matches. The associated well readings were satisfactory. John Kerr pointed out that the 1 higher than normal arsenic reading in the sample well nearby to an old cemetery was likely attributable to the seepage from arsenic used as an embalming fluid.

Four new sample customer are: Larry Hobart, Priscilla Fort, Walter Leach, and B. Bell. Water quality sampling to be carried out by John Kerr and Priscilla Fort. Well depth measurements to be carried out by David Pendleton and Priscilla Fort. David Pendleton pointed out that well depths had not changed much over the years and that water levels were not visible much below 20 feet from the top of the well.

John Kerr to research and publish well test chemistry meanings. John Kerr pointed out that Harpswell, Camden and other nearby Maine communities had determined that pesticides used on lawns could seep into the ground water aquifer. As a result, they had developed policies regarding the use of "Green Lawn" type pesticides. He pointed out that quantities of pesticides are used on certain Islesboro lawns and that tests need to be done on Islesboro to determine if pesticides are seeping into ground water or adjacent water front. John Kerr said that a brochure is needed listing pesticide toxicity and ground water. His science students will be asked to develop such a brochure.

Dick de Grasse mentioned that he received a call from former GWPC Chairman Steve Miller regarding septic system setbacks from water wells. Mr. De Grasse stated he did some preliminary research on the Internet and discovered that the issue can be complicated depending on many factors. David Pendleton said the Islesboro setback is 75 feet. No further discussion was had nor was any action proposed.

Acidity was discussed and it was reported that Islesboro wells are a product of a mildly acidic acquirer. No health problems attributable to acidic well water were reported.

Radon was discussed. Since radon is a widespread low-level radioactive product of the earth itself- ledges, soils etc.- there is little the GWPC can do to limit it. No radon related health problems were reported.

David Pendleton reported that hydrologist Rodrick Pendleton had retired to Islesboro and that he had agreed to speak to the GWPC. David Pendleton was urged to extend an invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:45.

Respectfully submitted: Dick de Grasse, Secretary.