



# City of Westfield Massachusetts

## Notice of Meeting

### Natural Resources Committee

JAN 16 2018

Date: Monday, January 29, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK Location: Room 315, City Hall, 59 Court St.

#### Agenda

#### I. Call to Order \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Attendance
- B. Procedure: Participation allowed when recognized by the chair.
- C. Approval meeting minutes - NA

#### II. Items on Agenda

**A. Item #1** - Continuation of the discussion from October 16, 2017 regarding: 10/6/16 - Upon motion of Councilors Babinski, Onyski and O'Connell, it was VOTED: That the Article III, Section 3-170 - The Water Resources Protection District. Specific attention to but not limited to Section 3-170.3, 3-170.5 and Section 3-170.6 be reviewed and that this matter be REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. Review changes, additions and corrections made to the draft ordinance since 10.16.17
  - a. Review feedback from November 2017 meetings with City Planner and Law Dept.
  - b. Review feedback from January 2, 2018 meeting with BAPAC
  - c. Airport District designation information and updates
- 2. Next steps

**B. Item #2** - Review questions presented by Kristen Mello on behalf of Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves (WRAFT) to City Council on JAN 8, 2018 and referred to NRC:

- 1. Questions presented at public presentation (See attached document *Q.1 Referred to NRC\_010818*)
- 2. Questions posed to the Planning Board on November 21, 2017 and presented to City Council on JAN 8, 2018 (See attached document *Q.2 Referred to NRC\_010818*)

III. Next Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Adjournment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.1 Referred to NRC\_010818 \***

1. Questions were asked at City Council on January 8, 2018 by Kristen Mello on behalf of WRAFT (Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves)
  2. Motion to Refer to Natural Resources Committee by Councilor Babinski Approved
- WRAFT mtg to discuss Westfield Water was held on Sunday. Discussed "What has been/is being done about the water contamination?" Answers for City, State, and Federal agencies. Is there more that could be done by Council?
    - Reading Charter, Sect 26 says that they may "... by similar investigation, secure information upon any matter"
    - Asked a former Councilor who said, "The Council has the right, authority, and responsibility to request this sort of information from departments and department heads as well as commissions and boards."
    - We request that the following be investigated:
      - 1 Aquifer Protective Development
        - a Questions on the List asked to the Planning Board on Nov 21, 2017 (see attached hand-out)
        - b Innovative architecture & building practices to minimize environmental and aquifer damage
        - c How much empty retail, industrial, & commercial/business space is available in the City already?
      - 2 Private Wells
        - a Does the Health Department yet have a comprehensive list of the private wells and contact information for the residents using them? Could we contact them all in the event of an emergency?
      - 3 PFAS Contamination Source
        - a Surface water testing of Powdermill Brook and Pond Brook at their headwaters, at their ponds (all), at their closest points to Well 2.
        - b Less expensive than mapping the underground geological features to determine why the numbers on Lower Sandy Hill Rd are so high compared to all others
        - c If they don't have the money to it, maybe WRAFT can get funding?

\* Attachment to Natural Resources Committee meeting agenda - January 29, 2018

Q.2 Referred to NRC\_010818 "

Questions were posed to the Planning Board on November 21, 2017 and presented to City Council on January 8, 2018 by Kristen Mello on behalf of WRAFT

1. How much land area in Westfield has been identified by the USGS as having high or medium yield aquifer beneath it?
2. How much of the land area, with USGS recognized aquifer beneath it, is protected under the Water Resources Protection District?
3. How much of the land area, recognized by the USGS as having aquifer beneath it, has been classified as Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Area because of land use and/or contamination?
4. How much of the land, in the Water Resources Protection District, is left in its natural, undeveloped state?
5. What percentage of properties, in the Water Resources Protection District, remain undeveloped?
6. Of the developed properties, in the Water Resources Protection District, how many have been issued a Special Permit?
7. Of the developed properties, in the Water Resources Protection District, how many have impervious surface coverage greater than 15%? What is that number, in %, for Residential Properties? What is the % for Commercial/Industrial properties?
8. Of the developed properties, in the Water Resources Protection District, what is the total ratio of impervious surface coverage to land area? In other words, what percentage of developed properties in the WRPD have been covered by impervious surfaces?
9. What percentage of the WRPD is neither impervious surface nor classified as Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Area?
10. Where is the curated list of chemicals stored, used, produced, discharged, or in any other way released into the environment, associated with the properties located within the Water Resources Protection District? Where are the associated emergency protocols for fire, flood, and power outages kept?
11. Given the acknowledged PFAS contamination of the Barnes Aquifer, what procedures or mechanisms are in place to revisit Special Permits where required to ensure adequate protection of the quality and quantity of safe drinking water?

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\* Attachment #2 for Natural Resources Committee meeting agenda - January 29, 2018

