

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 5:00pm

REVISED

Location: Earle Mountain Room

Present: Selectman Aimee J. Eckman, Chair; Selectman John F. Knight, Vice-Chair; Selectman Wallace F. Adams, Clerk; Selectman Linda S. Burt; Selectman Martin F. McDonald; Sheila Vanderhoef, Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator Nan Balmer

Also Present: Jeffery H. Davis, DBA Organization Renewal Associates

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

Municipal Water Discussion

Mr. Jeffery H. Davis, DBA Organization Renewal Associates, was present and acted as Moderator Facilitator of the meeting, as contracted by the Town to do so.

The Board of Selectmen were present to discuss and answer questions of the public as to Why a Municipal Water System is needed for the Town of Eastham. Also present on the panel were Health Agent Jane Crowley, Environmental Planner Jeff Thibodeau, and members of the Board of Health, the Finance Committee, and the Water Management Committee.

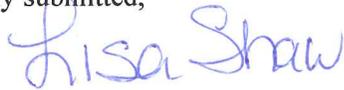
The powerpoint presentation and the list of questions asked by the public at this meeting are attached to these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Shaw



QUESTIONS FROM THE WATER MEETING TOWN HALL MARCH 12, 2013

1. Why is there no ban on use of lawn fertilizers and polluting chemicals?
Will we continue to contaminate our water, be it private or public?
2. Why is there no ban on automatic sprinklers that come on daily during summer, even in the rain? Often, houses are un-occupied.
3. How much will the new water department cost to run? Employees, Insurance, etc.
4. Will it be mandatory to cap our wells?
5. Will home insurance rates go down once fire hydrants are installed? How much?
6. What is the science behind the belief that 1,4dioxane is dangerous? Some in town are saying it is not. Please provide references.
7. What is the predicted cost of managing water at additional houses downstream of the landfill which show contaminants in future testing? What has been spent by the town so far?
8. How do we know that when we start pumping water at up to 2.6 million gallons a day from two wells, that we will not get salt water or other contaminants?
9. Would a partial water system be sufficient to address all water quality issues in Eastham?
10. Each day chemical and fuel delivery trucks drive through the town. What would happen if a significant accident were to occur and hundreds of wells were impacted? How would we fix that?
11. Are water quality standards different for public water supply wells than for private wells?
12. Have the public water supply wells that are in place been proven capable of handling Eastham's year round flow demands?
13. Does this public water system afford residents better fire protection for our homes?
14. Since 1971, when town water was first proposed, 2024 residents have died. How many do you know that died from drinking well water? How many do you know have gotten cancer from well water? How many do you know that have gotten sick from well water?
15. If a public water supply such as the Eastham Elementary School becomes undrinkable because of contamination, how would it impact students in our town?
16. Do towns and cities across the US filter their public water supply at the source?

17. At what point and in how many years will we face issues with water in our public wells that will supposedly be supplying all residences? When will we be regretting this proposed system?
18. If nitrates from septic systems are so important, why doesn't the town have mandatory pumping of septic systems?
19. If water quality is steadily declining as you say, why is the percentage of wells in the >10 (ppm nitrate) category constant?
20. Other than 3 residences that have shown evidence of Dioxane, what else has changed since we voted down the article for town water 2 to 1 at last year's Town Meeting?
21. Why 9 households offered bottled water? I thought it was 4 households.
kcmeayers@capecodonluine.com
22. There is a long list of organic compounds, like carbon tetrachloride, para-dichlorobenzene, Dioxin and trichloroethylene that can be eliminated from drinking water by the use of filtration through granular activated carbon. Has anyone in the Town of Eastham Administration suggested this simple solution?
23. Besides nitrate and dioxane from the landfill, what other contaminants have been found in wells that exceed EPA levels and pose a definitive health risk?
24. I understand the complexity, but why not, as a partial direction, prevent lawn additions, And make all plantings native, i.e. not any nitrogens?
25. The Landfill issue is our problem. Why are we not addressing that problem now and getting the three families squared away? You need to start fixing the problem caused by the Landfill.
26. Will having municipal water change the bedrooms/property ratio as it is now...in other words will the town continue to grow because there is sufficient water – basically allowing the town to continue its growth, and, in so doing, become less rural than the town we cherish for its ruralness?
27. How many wells in town do not meet EPA/DEP standards for drinking water?
28. Is the EES at risk? We spent 12 million on it. Must it be closed?
Where would elementary school children go?
29. Do we need fluoride in our water? Town is almost at full capacity. Cannot restrict the sale and use of pesticides on nitrate items by stores, garden supply, etc.
30. What happened to the proposal to purchase water from Orleans for a partial system?

31. Will chlorine and/or other chemicals be added from the onset of use or only if/when tests indicate the need?
32. Is water polluted on the way from the well to homes?
33. No mention has been made of the fact that we can be forced, by outside authority, to build a system, whether we want it or not! I have experienced this and would like to explain what happened. Bob McGorry rbmcgorr@hotmail.com
34. I have a problem with your worrying about overpopulation and density when the same Officials trying to force town water on a town of people who voted it down last year two to one are the same who agreed to the grossly overpopulated development at the end of Brackett Road. How can you possibly use “overpopulation” and “density” as an excuse for town water?

THE FOLLOWING ARE DUPLICATES OF QUESTIONS ALREADY ON THE WEB.

35. I understand that waste water treatment is not going to happen. Why wouldn't the town Create regulations that would more rigorously pursue the elimination of cesspools and failed septic systems which must be creating the majority of nitrogen contamination.
36. Have high-tech, alternative filter systems been explored for individual homes?
Susan Wasson scwasson@comcast.net
37. In the 1-9-13 IRAP report, it was said that there are “alternative treatments” which can be explored to resolve the problem originating at the dump and flowing toward Alston Avenue. Why are we not looking into the “Alternative Treatments” instead of spending time in promoting town wide water?
38. According to your 1-9-13 IRAP report, 38 residences are in the plume area (critical exposure area. Of the 38 residences, on 3 out of a town of 6000 residences have a problem. Why don't we help them and fix that problem instead of focusing on a town-wide system?
39. Why aren't we helping the 1-2% of folks who need it and leave the rest of us alone? Why not look at sewers? Protect wells, ponds and the Bay.
40. Why don't we do wastewater first – won't this take care of any drinking water problem And we'll eventually be forced to do that anyway at great cost?
41. Is reverse osmosis a realistic option, versus a public water supply? Are there any Communities on the Cape that have successfully utilized RO on a town wide basis?
42. Have there been any draw down studies for the proposed public water supply wells for Eastham? Is there a possibility that we could draw nitrates and other chemicals into The wells which would need to be treated?

Need for Water

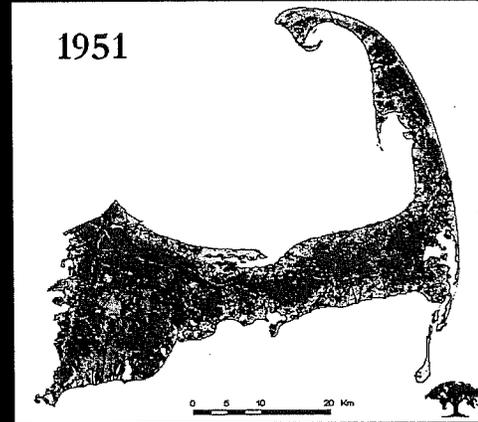
Vision Statement:

"The Board of Selectmen recognize that every citizen of the Town of Eastham has the right to a clean and safe water supply;

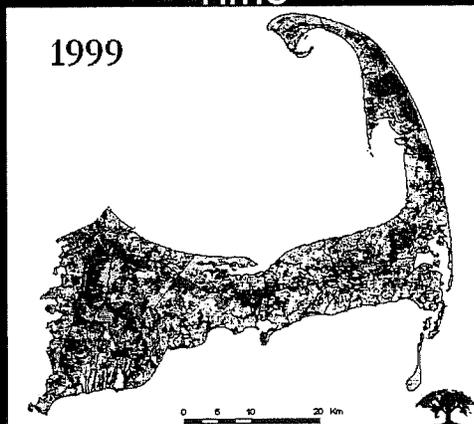
Therefore, we propose the development of a municipal water system for our Town.

This will provide for immediate and long term public health, improve fire safety, and protect property values; ensuring the continued vitality of the Town and its citizens, now and for future generations."

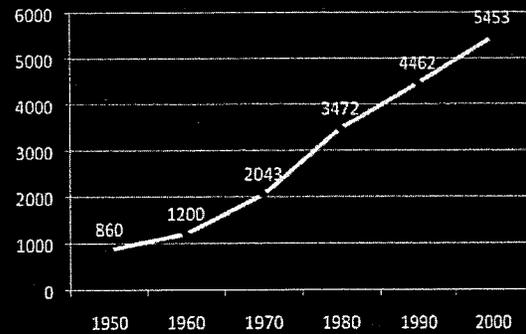
Eastham's Development Over Time



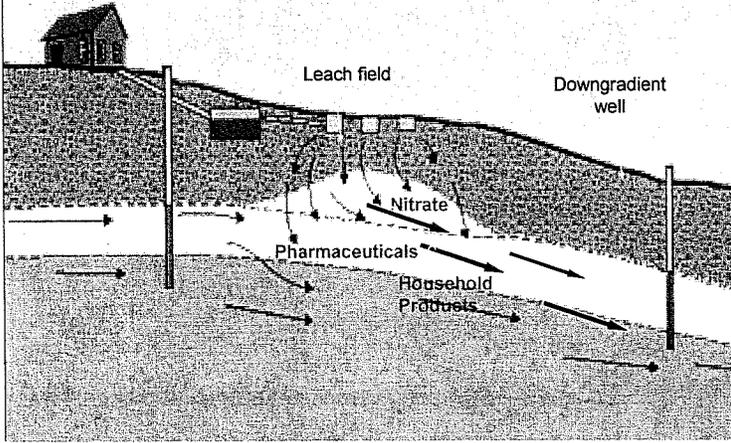
Eastham's Development Over Time



Population Changes since 1950

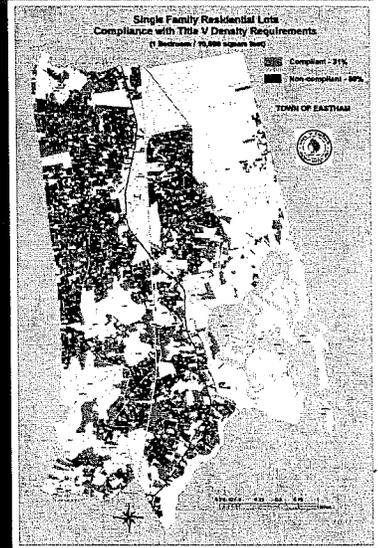


Title V septic System



Bedroom density and nitrate levels

70% of single family residences (7 out of 10 homes) exceed the Title 5 standard for density on nitrogen sensitive lots



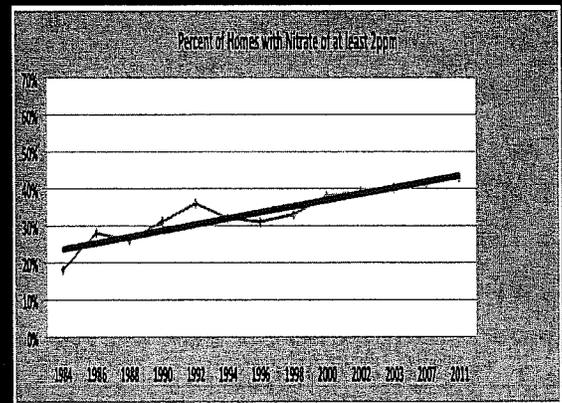
NITRATE IS AN INDICATOR OF WASTEWATER IN WELL WATER

MORE NITROGEN = MORE CONTAMINANTS

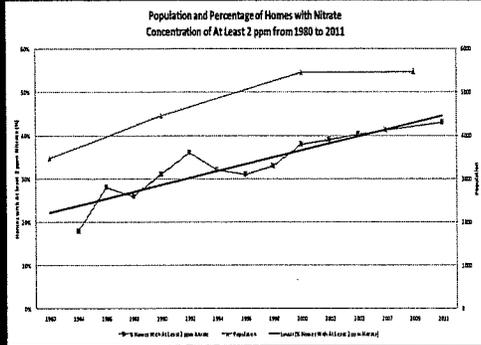
Nitrate > 1.0 ppm is above background
From: Cape Cod Commission

Nitrate > 2.0 ppm influenced by septic system
From: Barnstable County Department of Health

Homes with nitrate of at least 2 ppm continue to increase over time.

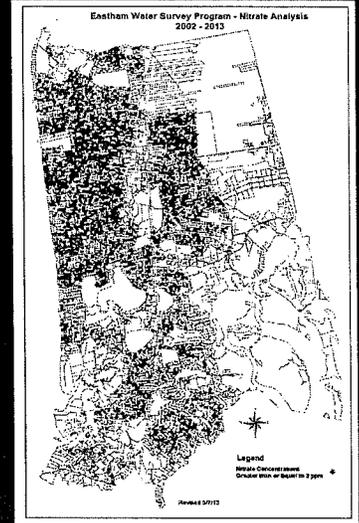


Population and Nitrate Increase with Time



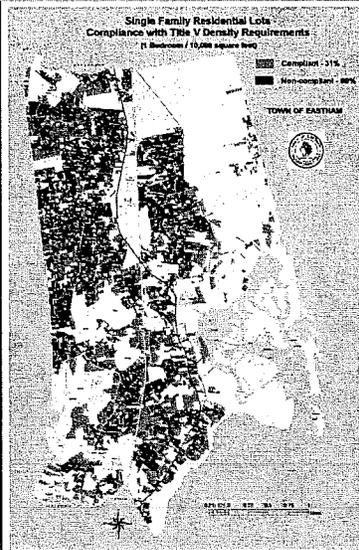
This is a Town-Wide Problem

(Red = properties with 2 ppm Nitrate or greater)



Bedroom density and nitrate levels

70% of single family residences (7 out of 10 homes) exceed the Title 5 standard for density on nitrogen sensitive lots



Other "stuff" in our water...

- Pharmaceuticals and "emerging contaminants" (Silent Spring study)
- Lawn fertilizers and pesticides
- Road Runoff
- Landfill contaminants
- What was once considered safe is no longer the case!
- What will we learn tomorrow?

1,4 Dioxane

- Showing up in wells down gradient from capped landfill.
- First appeared offsite in November of 2012
- Current MassDEP standard is 3ppb
- 9 households offered bottled water
- 1 new well installed
- July 2013 standard to change to 0.3ppb

Need for Water

Eastham Wastewater Mgmt Plan
GHD Inc., 2009

Principal Conclusions

“The Town needs to protect the public health by providing a reliable public water supply from a protected source.”

Need for Water

Issues:

- Overdevelopment
- Septic impacts Town-wide
- Landfill contaminates

Benefits:

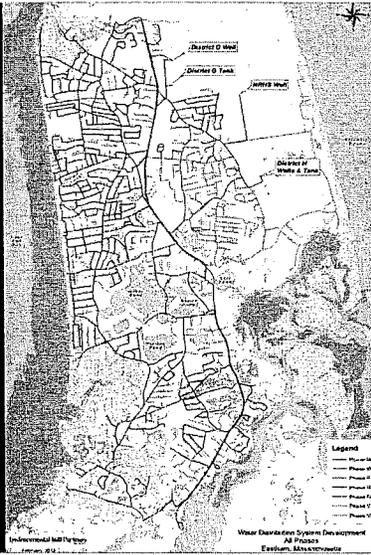
- Protect public health
- Increased fire protection
- Increased property values
- Investment for future generations
- Water during power outages

Our Proposed Plan for the Water System

Town-wide Water System

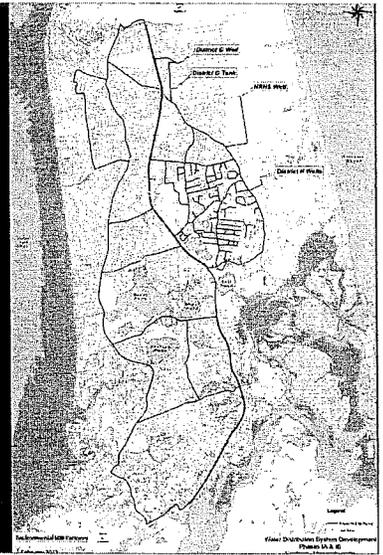
6 Phases
6646 connections

12-year construction program
2 years per phase



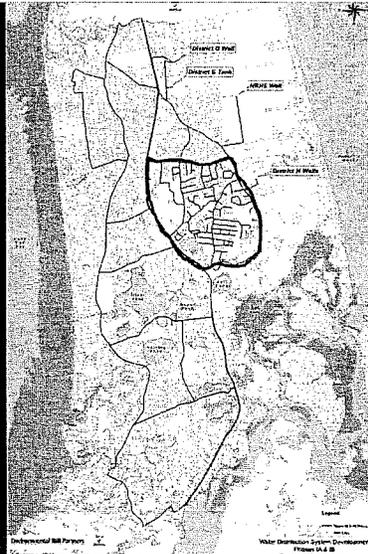
PHASE 1

- WELLFIELDS
- TRANSMISSION MAINS
- STORAGE TANK
- CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES:
 - 2056 Total



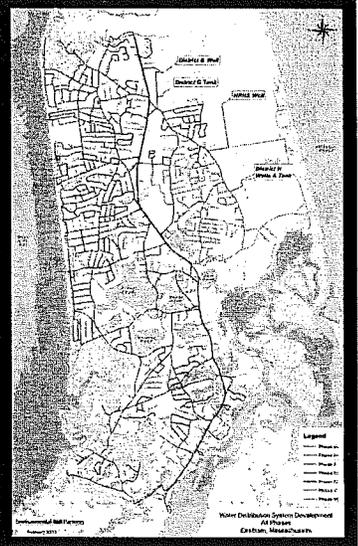
PHASE 1

- WELLFIELDS
- TRANSMISSION MAINS
- STORAGE TANK
- CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES:
 - 2056 Total
- Expanded to address landfill issues



Detail of design and Installation:

March 19th @ 5 p.m.
March 23rd @ 10 a.m.



Detail of Financing and Operating costs

Total cost for 6 Phases: \$114,800,000

Information Sessions:

March 26th @ 5 pm

March 30th @ 10 am

Educate yourself at future meetings!

- Design & implementation:
 - March 19th @5p.m. & 23rd @10 a.m.
- Financing & Operation:
 - March 26th @5 p.m. & 30th @10 a.m.
- Wrap up (all 3 presented)
 - April 13th & 27th @10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Town of Eastham
Website:

www.eastham-ma.gov

Questions?

“Need for Water”

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Nauset Lens Groundwater Model

