

Phoenicia Water Committee Meeting
March 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Phoenicia Library

MINUTES

In attendance: Robert Drake; Kathryn Haber; Kerry Henderson; Jameson Joyce; Barbara Mansfield

Call to order: 10:08

Meeting Minutes: Kerry motioned to approve minutes as written
Kathryn 2nd
All in favor

Jameson Joyce officially accepted position. Robert said Step 1 is for Jameson to sign paperwork at Town Hall as soon as possible. Robert explained the Town wants a fully-licensed Superintendent. Rick has a grandfathered C license, and the requirement is a 2A. There is test and Town will reimburse or from Jameson (approximately \$300) fee for test. Licensure learning will take about a year. Water District funding is precarious. Town passed resolution to reevaluate position within 180 days. Step two for Jameson: get together with Rick. Board members will communicate that going forward the only people on payroll for routine Water District work are Rick and Jameson. Robert listed the known docket of tasks: fix two broken hydrants; have water tower inspected (outsource); get a third pump (roof of Water Plant will need to be removed); complete loop (pipe across Bridge St.); restore reservoir; clean up water plant and other buildings; get keypad locks on Water Plant and other District facilities.

Kathryn and Jameson asked where to ensure correct information regarding water system. Robert said there are classes online, and that Rich Winters will come, for free, to advise correct way to do things but must be scheduled in advance.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), and a Vulnerability Assessment (VA), and Lead Service Line Inventory: These docs are on NY Rural Water website and need to be filled out. Inventory of testable backflow devices must also be done. Kathryn noted that this is probably part of SOP. Robert advised this is important but not a high priority—last thing he wants to do about overwhelm Jameson.

Kathryn reported that Rich said he is not allowed to make recommendations for a water tower inspector. B. mentioned that Rick knows who did the last inspection, likely still in business. Jameson asked who to use for excavation. Robert answered use Hwy Dept. as much as possible, and if unavailable go to private excavators.

Barbara mentioned that Alan Dumas of Brinnier and Larios mentioned that there are new systems (“mesh”) that can reduce excess chlorine.

One step toward grant readiness is to ensure the Superintendent that is properly licensed.

When Kathryn spoke to Rich Winters, he said the Dept of Health said neither Phoenicia Water District nor Pine Hill Water District completed Lead Service Line Inventory, and that each Hamlet could be fined. Kathryn will contact Rich, copying Jameson and Rick, and ask what is required.

Babs mentioned a very good article for all to read is [The Catskills' Lost Future: Water, Power, and the Fight for Local Control](#)

The Phoenicia Water Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 at the Phoenicia Library.

Babs moved to adjourn at 11:04

Kathryn 2nd

All in favor