



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:00 AM  
Visitor Center, 14 North Street

**MINUTES**

**Approved 1/17/2019**

**Present:** Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski

**Absent:** Kim Gogan

Andrea Bejtlich and Ted Walsh of the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) came to introduce the Commission to the program and to begin discussions of how the Commission could set up a water quality monitoring program on the Stevens Brook.

Mr. Walsh explained that DES already has several monitoring stations in Claremont and hoped that the Commission would be willing to take samples at some of them in addition to the Stevens Brook.

Ms. Bejtlich distributed copies of the VRAP *Water Quality Monitoring Sampling Protocols*. Commissioners will be expected to become familiar with these protocols before sampling begins.

Ms. Bejtlich explained that DES gathers data from numerous VRAPs across the state. Because volunteers are carefully trained in sampling techniques and because only specified sampling equipment is used, the data is uniform and valuable and is used by both DES and the EPA. Ms. Bejtlich shared a list of the equipment the Commission will be expected to use to maintain the quality control necessary for the program. The total cost would be almost \$2,700. Mr. Walsh said they can teach the Commission how to use the equipment and how to maintain it. With proper care, the equipment can last 5-7 years. Ms. Skowronski suggested checking with the Claremont Water Department, because they do regular testing themselves and may have the same equipment.

DES is willing to loan the necessary equipment to the Commission for the first year. If it seems the sampling program will endure, then the Commission would need to purchase its own equipment.

Water will be tested for turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. Additional parameters can be tested, but they cost extra to analyze (e.g. e. coli). Mr. Walsh said the state can help underwrite the extra expense in some cases.

Samples are taken at least monthly between April and October each year. Twice-monthly sampling is optimum, but is difficult to achieve without lots of volunteers.

It was agreed that the Commission will form a VRAP for Claremont. Ms. Bejtlich will suggest a list of 6 stations (including Stevens Brook) that DES would like the Commission to sample. She will send the list in January. In mid-May, arrangements will be made for on-site training.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*deForest Bearse*