Canaan Source Water Protection Committee

Minutes of May 3, 2006 meeting:

7:00 PM Meeting opened at the Fire Station.

Staff member present: Heidi Brannon, GSRWA

Members present: David Shinnlinger, Chair; Jay Waldner, Vice Chair; John Bergeron, Secretary; Bob Reagan; Wally Medeiros; and Tim Jennings.

Members absent: Jim Linn; Bill Wilson and Joe Damour.

7:00 PM Meeting opened with review and discussion of potential contamination sources.

7:15 PM Minutes of April 19, 2006 were approved.

7:20 PM Discussion of older septic systems close to Canaan Street Lake, which present a risk of contamination. A map showing the locations was provided. There are 31 developed lots with high-risk systems, 43 developed lots with negligible septic risk, and 24 undeveloped lots with no septic risk.

7:25 PM Discussion of Canaan Street Salt and Canaan Street Beach.

7:40 PM What are the major sources of contamination? Is it road salt? Is it septic failure? Is it organic matter disturbed by high performance watercraft? What protection ordinances are possible? Is there an emergency plan to respond to an oil spill? The lake host is currently restricted to performing weed inspection and education, but can that role be expanded in the future to include water source protection education? Should there be a no wake zone buffer zone between the reservoir and the main part of the lake? Should there be signs on the roads stating that you are entering a water supply protection zone?

8:10 PM Review of existing DES administrative rules for Canaan Street Lake. Can these be modified? What are the state's model rules? Should we educate landowners on the use of fertilizers?

8:25 PM A summary document was distributed by Heidi, and reviewed by the committee. This included potential contamination sources at or near Cardigan Mountain School, Crescent Campsites, Mascoma High School, and Indian River School. The summary was revised to remove the third sentence in the second paragraph.

8:40 PM Implementation discussion: Should the reservoir have markers in the winter as well as the summer? Should they be larger than present ones? What can we do to educate the public and landowners? What enforcement is possible? What additional signage is reasonable? Should Canaan Street have swales, ditches, and or culverts to minimize road salt? What can be done about septic failures, petroleum spills, and turbidity? Should we have a turbidity study? Should more frequent bacterial testing be performed in more locations? Is grant money available? Should test holes near the south end of the pond be undertaken as a solution to the organic matter problem?

Heidi will initiate work on one implementation item and options were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

John H. Bergeron, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the June 7, 2006 meeting.