



HARVARD SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 12, 2016
Harvard Town Hall

Cindy Russo, Chair Kyle Hedrick Richard Maiore

Present

Commissioners: Cindy Russo, Chair; Kyle Hedrick; Rick Maiore
Others: Tim Bragan, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Russo at 9 a.m.

Mike Derse, 32 Mass Ave., attended the meeting to discuss his letter dated August 26, 2016, a copy of which is attached. Mr. Derse requested an adjustment of the bill. The Commissioners noted that he had occupied the property on 12/9/15 but had not installed a new meter so was not billed for water for December 2015 to May 2016. High water charges resulting from watering his lawn. Mr. Derse was advised to consider the approximate charges for the period of use for which he was not billed and to return to the Commission if he felt an adjustment was appropriate.

The Commissioners discussed water conservations. Suggestions made to put water conservations advice on the website and in the newspaper each spring. Measures to encourage the use of water saving appliances were discussed. Mr. Maiore will invite Jack Guswa to the October 26 meeting to give advice on this matter.

A rate hearing should be held annually per the sewer regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00.

Mike Derse
32 Mass Ave
Harvard, MA 01451

August 26, 2016

Town of Harvard Water & Sewer Commission
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451

Dear Water & Sewer Commission,

I am writing to request a reevaluation of my most recent water and sewer bill for service 5/9/2016 to 8/1/2016. My water meter was replaced in May, right around the time when the weather started to get warm and I started watering our lawn. I didn't realize that our meter had been broken since I moved into our house in late 2013.

Prior to my most recent water and sewer bill, my previous bills were as follows:

Bill Date	Amount
05/2016	\$160.87
02/2016	\$50.00
11/2015	\$50.00
08/2015	\$50.00
02/2015	\$50.00
11/2014	\$50.00
08/2014	\$50.00
05/2014	\$50.00

My most recent water and sewer bill for service 5/9/2016 to 8/1/2016 was as follows:

Description	Amount
Water Base	\$50.00
Water Usage	\$2,022.64
Sewer Base	\$50.00
Sewer Usage	\$2,529.69
Total	\$4,602.33

Naturally, I was surprised to see a bill for more than \$4,600 when my previous bills were all around \$50.00. I immediately discontinued irrigating our lawn. I called Public Works Director, Richard Nota, and he recommended that I install a separate irrigation water meter so that I would not be double charged for water consumption that was not also going into the public sewer system. Plumber Rick West installed an irrigation meter on August 17, nine days ago.

Since receiving my bill, I have taken several meter readings, as shown in the figure below. As you can see, my water consumption has dropped significantly because I am not currently watering our lawn. Most of my summer water usage went to the irrigation system, not into the public sewer.

As it appears that I used the water outlined in my 8/1 bill, I can't in good faith dispute the water usage charge of \$2,022.64. However, I would request that the town reconsider my \$2,529.69 sewer usage charge.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Mike T. Derse

Mike Derse
32 Mass Ave
Harvard, MA 01451
(805) 407-7275

