

Prudential Committee
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Prudential Committee Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023, 5:00 PM

Prudential Committee Members Present:

Everett Bingham
Wendy Smith- Online
Olivia Savage, Clerk

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager/Ascutney Water Director
Betty Brooks
Wendy Brothers
Gary Brothers
Andy Rea
John Arrison
Violeta McClean

1) Call to Order

by Chair, Everett Bingham at 5:00 pm

2) About PFAS

The Water Director gave a update. This issue is not unique to Weathersfield, as health advisories are being distributed all over the country. This is a nationwide problem, and although it is something to be concerned about, the levels detected in the Ascutney Water District are 17.85ppt lower than the State of Vermont standard. The State of Vermont does not issue a "No Drink" on our water until the levels of PFAS exceed 20ppt, and our levels are 2.08ppt at one (1) well site, and 2.1Sppt at another well site. The State of Vermont has opened a hotline for residents with questions about PFAS. Please contact (802) 693-0206 or email ANR.DWPFASinfo@vermont.gov.

3) What do we know?

We know that PFAS are everywhere in the environment. Scientists have the most information on PFOA and PFOS, but since the other PFAS are similar, they may have similar effects. PFOA and PFOS do not break down in soil. This means they can stay in the environment and contaminate drinking water sources even though they haven't been used in decades. PFOA and PFOS also don't break down in our bodies. It takes about two to four years for half the PFOA in your body to leave through your urine. It may take longer for other PFAS to leave your body.

4)When is the water considered unsafe to drink?

Although this does not apply to the Ascutney Water District at this time, when PFAS levels exceed 20ppt, the State of Vermont Department of Public Health states that we are not to use the

water source for drinking, food preparation, cooking, brushing teeth, preparing baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables, or any other manner of ingestion.

5) What is the Ascutney Water District doing?

- a. Partnering with a Water Quality Engineer: Although we are not eligible for emergency funding because we have not exceeded the MCL, we do qualify for a planning grant to determine how we can reduce our PFAS levels as a Water District. We are currently working with a Water Quality Engineer to apply to this program.
- b. Partnering with our neighboring towns: We are not unique to PFAS in Ascutney. We are partnering with our neighboring towns to share resources and information.
- c. Further Testing: We will continue to test our wells for PFAS to monitor for increases and decreases in PFAS levels.
- d. Public Meetings: We will continue to issue information to the public through direct mailings, social media, and public meetings at Martin Memorial Hall. Meeting notices will be posted on our website, on the bulletin outside at Martin Memorial Hall, and on the Library Bulletin. Unfortunately, the Ascutney Post Office is no longer permitting the Town to post our public meeting notices on the bulletin at the Post Office.

6) Any Other Business

Ascutney Water District will start posing all information at the two post office buildings in Country Estates.

7) Adjourn

Wendy Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Everett– 2nd

No discussion

Vote - unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM

Respectfully,
Olivia Savage

Prudential Committee

Everett Bingham, Chair

Wendy Smith

William Southard, Vice Chair

DR