

MEMORANDUM

TO: Don Spann, Chair
Planning Board Members

FROM: Andrew H. Deci, Assistant Town Planner

DATE: May 1, 2020

RE: Revisions to the Aquifer Protection Overlay District

Summary: *Revisions are proposed to both the boundaries and performance standards of the Aquifer Protection Zone; the changes clarify the purpose of the district (to protect public water sources) and modernize the performance standards based on best management practices. The regulated area is proposed to be reduced to the vicinity of the Brunswick Topsham Water District well on River Road. The proposed changes have been vetted and are supported by the Brunswick Topsham Water District and the Maine Drinking Water Program.*

The existing Aquifer Protection Overlay district is proposed to be amended in order to address several deficiencies that have been identified by staff.

The proposed revisions accomplish the following:

- Clarify the intent and goals of the district

Protection of public groundwater sources is the intent of the overlay district.

- Clarify and revise the boundaries of the district

The boundaries of the district as originally mapped are un-enforceable and, frankly, confusing, since they refer to a map that is constantly updated and doesn't match the hydrology of the area.

The proposed mapping reduces the regulated area to the catchment areas of the aquifer mapped near and around River Road; this is the aquifer that produces the public water distributed by Brunswick and Topsham Water District (BTWD) and which is most accurately understood and mapped.

The proposed boundary includes both zones 1 and 2, as identified in the hydrogeological report for the aquifer.

- Simplify and modernize the regulations within the district

Best management practices for aquifers have changed since the AP was first implemented; the proposed language is updated to reflect more modern approaches to regulation. More particularly, the language reflects guidance produced by the Maine Drinking Water Program (2005).

- Unify the regulatory approach with the Town of Brunswick

The regulated aquifer is shared between the Towns of Brunswick and Topsham; the aquifer is the source of public water for both communities. The proposed regulations are substantively similar to Brunswick's, so that the same types of protections are in place in both communities.

The proposed language has been reviewed by the Brunswick and Topsham Water District and the Maine Drinking Water program. Both agencies support the amendment.