

City of Portsmouth Safe Water Advisory Group

February 23, 2022 | 6:30-8:30pm

Hybrid Meeting: Portsmouth City Hall and Zoom

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9OyeHfVAQF6LtJINs7VzRA

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Program - presented by Beverly Baer Drouin, NH Division of Public Health
- Lead & Copper Regulations and City of Portsmouth Activities - presented by Al Pratt, Water Supply Operations Manager for the City of Portsmouth DPW/Water Division
- Q&A
- 2021 Year in Review and PFPrA Update
- Community Drinking Water Forum
- Future Meetings & Goals
- Public Comment

Introductions

New members

Recap of 2021

- SWAG was approved by City Council October 5, 2020
- SWAG Mission: *To review and communicate the latest science on the health and environmental effects of drinking water contaminants (with a heavy focus on PFAS), to monitor federal and state level legislative changes, and to anticipate policy changes that could impact the city of Portsmouth*
- SWAG voted to have 2 co-chairs - Brian Goetz & Andrea Amico
- SWAG met 5 times in 2021 and covered a variety of topics (videos on City website)
- Changes in membership (Lindsey Carmichael and Russ Osgood resigned, Asst Fire Chief Bill McQuillen joined).
- Established a SWAG Overview document & SWAG goals
- City maintains a website for the SWAG with reference documents, meeting minutes, videos of meetings, etc
- Presented a report and small presentation to City Council on 12/20/2021

Appointment of the SWAG Committee at the February 7, 2022 City Council Meeting

- Mayor McEachern announced the appointments to the Safe Water Advisory Committee (SWAG) with terms through December 31, 2023 as follows:
- Councilors: Vincent Lombardi and Rich Blalock
- Community Members: Andrea Amico, Katrie Hillman, Rich DiPentima and **one vacancy**
- Portsmouth Fire Department: William McQuillen
- Portsmouth Water Department: Brian Goetz
- Portsmouth Health Department: Kim McNamara
- Portsmouth School Board: Hope Van Epps
- Environmental Scientist: Dr. Laurel Schaider
- NH State Representative: David Meuse
- NH State Senator: Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

Committee Rules

- Elect a new Chair (or co-Chairs)
- Vote to accept minutes
- Term of members is for two years

Lead presentations

- Beverly Baer Drouin, NH Division of Public Health. Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Program
- Lead & Copper Regulations and City of Portsmouth Activities (Al Pratt, Water Supply Operations Manager for the City of Portsmouth DPW/Water Division)
- Q&A

2021 Year in Review and PFPrA Update

- Brian to add to this slide

Community Drinking Water Forum

- Plan for Community Drinking Water Forum during National Drinking Water week (May 1-7, 2022)
- Need to form a subcommittee of SWAG members to work on planning agenda, format, and outreach
- Want to cover a range of topics for the general community to become more educated on water quality, answer FAQs, and provide resources
- Library as possible venue to host an evening meeting
- Possible interactive tool or app to engage better with community members
- Looking for SWAG input on topic, agenda, and outreach ideas

Future Meetings & Goals

SWAG Goals for 2021:

1) Have an overview of the water system and what is tested for in our water.

Goal achieved in Feb 2021.

2) Understand contaminants of concern the city is facing.

Goal partially achieved in Feb 2021 and throughout SWAG meetings in 2021. Evolving with more data.

3) Overview of pending legislation and potential future legislation that will support the community.

Goal achieved in June 2021. Evolving as more legislation is proposed and passed.

4) Review NH state PFAS guidelines and science/reasoning used behind it.

Goal achieved in April 2021.

5) Host a clean drinking water forum to provide education and Q&A session for city residents.

Goal not achieved - planning for community forum May 2022 during National Drinking Water Week

6) Report back to the City Council by the end of 2021 (or sooner as needed).

Goal achieved on Dec 20, 2021.

Future Meetings & Goals

Discussion on potential SWAG Goals for 2022/2023:

- Community Drinking Water Forum
- Ongoing Legislative updates
- Private well owner outreach in collaboration w/NH DES
- Coakley Landfill update
- Monitor emerging contaminants (PFPrA in tap water, run off from artificial turf)
- Work with City staff to establish community resources and education on how to dispose of hazardous and PFAS containing products to prevent additional water contamination in our community
- Work with School department to provide education to students

SWAG input on timing of remaining quarterly meetings for 2022

- Plan for quarterly meetings (plus Drinking Water Forum in May 2022)
 - Feb 2022
 - April 2022
 - August 2022
 - November 2022

Closing Thoughts & Public Comment

Thank you for your participation in the first SWAG of 2022!