

Phoenicia Water Committee Meeting
August 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Simpson Park Gazebo
MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

In attendance: Kathryn Haber, Barbara Mansfield
Guests: Phil Garaffa, Elizabeth Kneissl, Kyle Steen

Haber motioned to accept the July Meeting Minutes as written. Mansfield 2nd the motion. All in favor.

The Lead Line Inventory for Phoenicia Water District is complete and was submitted in July. Phoenicia Water District has iron ductile pipes with copper pipes leading to homes.

Kyle Steen informed the Committee that Pine Hill's Superintendent, Ethan Bernstein, has resigned. The Town will put out a notice regarding the position as soon as possible.

Phil Garaffa, who has done plumbing for the Phoenicia Water District for many years, came to the meeting as a concerned citizen. Superintendent Ricciardella engaged Garaffa to address an issue at the plant, and while there Garaffa became aware that the infiltration pumps at the Water Plant are in urgent need of repair or replacement: one functioning at 48% and the other at 24%. Garaffa recommended the Committee/Town call an engineer to assess what needs to be done and how much it will cost. Mansfield will call Rich at Rural Water to see if he has recommendations for funding or engineers.

Garaffa also said that Deputy Superintendent Joyce needs to learn to replace filters as soon as possible. If Superintendent Ricciardella can't do this, Garaffa suggested that perhaps Rich at Rural Water will do a visit for that express purpose.

There is one training available to Deputy Superintendent Joyce in Ulster County in 2025: it's at SUNY Ulster and begins August 11, 2025 and runs through November. It is an live, online evening course and costs

Haber reported that the report she got back from the County did not specify Water Tower Inspection. She will follow up with Eva Walters. Walters, new Ulster Co. Health Dept head, made a presentation at the Town Board meeting on August 4th saying that one of her goals is to build community trust. Haber knows Walters, and will reach out regarding records and other information.

Mansfield and Drake determined that the project to move the water main NY State funding via the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process this month for pipes that will complete the loop. An engineering report was done by the County as part of the Bridge St. Project, indicating a plan for required piping changed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Simpson Gazebo in Phoenicia.

Haber motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:08. Mansfield 2nd the motion. All in favor.