

## Firewise Cistern 4/24/19

Wednesday April 24, was the day of the "Big Dig". A 2000-gallon cistern/dry hydrant was placed at the intersection of Overlook Way and Whitetail Way, near the low water/concrete bridge. The purpose of the dry hydrant is for firefighting.

Joe Howard allowed the use of his land for the project and generously cleared the area with his Komatsu crawler and about five hours of his time. Larry Coats coordinated the general schedule, obtained cost estimates, ordered and delivered the tank and associated parts, and had the gravel delivered. Larry also used his John Deere tractor and backhoe for the dig and backfill, and his truck and trailer to carry the tank and carry away some of the removed trees (and Nancy provided lunch). Roger Brown worked all day long with his Bobcat excavator which was the perfect machine for the job. Roger's expertise and skill with his machine was invaluable and he made the job look easy. Stanley Wills was onsite all day and did anything that was needed. Matt Walton brought 2000 gallons of water in the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department tanker truck and filled the tank as soon as it was in place.

This provides geographic coverage for fire suppression in our development. We now have cisterns near each end and in the middle. We will receive a grant from the Department of Forestry which should cover most of the material expense.

When I built my place, my insurance agent said this was in a high-risk area and he could only provide Homeowners/Fire Insurance with a high-risk carrier for \$1,000+ per year. I did some research and sent him a paper that defined the capability and ratings of the fire department and some specifics about the Firewise Program, including our cisterns. He then managed to find new coverage for less than \$400 per year. If anyone else has high insurance rates you might want to give it a shot.

I want to thank everyone who supported this project. It makes our community a better and safer place.

Dennis Wallingsford  
Chairman, Firewise Committee