

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 12th, 2017
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Business Manager Lauren Croy.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping Levels

Mr. Orcutt spoke about well levels and said that pumping levels have been below average for August. Mr. McCaffrey asked if August rain helped the well levels and Mr. Orcutt said it did not and that it was a dry August.

Badacock Pond Update – Chairman

Mr. McCaffrey spoke with Mr. Strickland and Mr. Orcutt about the weed project and Mr. Strickland said harvesting was going well and hydro raking will start soon. Mr. Strickland may need to use a truck from the DPW with his trailer to remove the muck/mass. Mr. Orcutt asked how deep the muck is and Mr. McCaffrey said it could be up to 6 feet deep in some places. Mr. Orcutt reminded the commissioners that they had agreed to contribute \$5,000-\$10,000 of post project funding and pointed out that they currently have \$200,000 of CPC funds to use towards the project.

Mr. McCaffrey explained that the original estimated cost for the project was for 240 hours of harvesting which would amount to 5 acres. In April, costs changed, so the allotted funds would now only cover 120 hours of harvesting. However, they still see a need to harvest the 5 acres, which would ultimately put them at a financial shortfall.

Because of this, Mr. McCaffrey wanted to see if the water commissioners would agree to provide some additional funding to complete the 5 acres. Mr. McCaffrey presented the idea of contributing \$10,000 towards this year's efforts. The board discussed pros and cons and the details of why the funds are needed this year. The commissioners asked questions regarding the funding and Mr. McCaffrey answered all of them to ensure they had a good understanding of his proposal. Details of the project were also discussed such as Mr. Fishbone asking why only 15 acres of the 35 acres will have weed removal and Mr. McCaffrey explained that only 15 acres is needed to bring the depth of the pond down.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to provide up to \$10,000 to the Badacock Weed Removal project to be used by the end of 2017 contingent on the efficiency of hydroraking and based on the approval of joint subcommittee made up of Mr. Luening, Mr. Strickland, and Mr. McCaffrey. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the board would consider donating additional funds for future years and the board wants to hold off on this discussion.

Whitney Pond Well Construction Update – Superintendent

Mr. Orcutt said there will be a progress meeting the first Tuesday in October. He also said that we need to replace a transformer which is going to be an additional cost of about \$6,000. Mr. McCaffrey would like to put pressure on to get a schedule. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we have tried running Whitney I and Whitney II together yet and Mr. Orcutt said we have not been able to but he will keep trying.

Capital Projects

Mr. Orcutt presented a handout listing Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2018 along with the estimated costs. The commissioners reviewed the lists and discussed the costs and how it would fall into our budget. One of the projects is the meter change out program which we are in the second year of. Mr. McCaffrey would like us to list the meters as a budget line item in the future to ensure we have funds allotted for the meter purchases. Mr. McCaffrey asked why the sewer commission is paying for a portion of the meters and Mr. Gmeiner responded that the sewer commission pays 30% of the meter costs because about 30% of all customers have sewer service.

Staffing Plan

Mr. Orcutt has not yet reached out to West Groton to inquire about assistance from their employees.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to accept the minutes of August 29th, 2017 as amended and Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for EW7 were signed.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm, Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey	_____	Date _____
James Gmeiner	_____	Date _____
Greg Fishbone	_____	Date _____