

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 26th, 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 presented a graph showing slight improvements in well levels.

Badacock Pond Update – Chairman

Mr. McCaffrey said hydro raking began and will continue this week into next week. He is going to ask the GPAC to give the CPC a copy of the contract. The CPC will need to determine how much hydro raking will need to be done between now and 2019 in order to determine the final budget. Mr. Gmeiner thinks that hydro raking the cove with the most homes around it would be the best use of funds for now. Mr. Fishbone asked if the boat launch area is done and Mr. McCaffrey confirmed that it is. Mr. McCaffrey explained that nutrients flow into the pond from streams which is a cause of the weeds. Mr. Fishbone asked if there would be a way to slow the inflow of nutrients and Mr. McCaffrey would look into it and recommends that hydro raking be done to increase the pond depth so that light cannot reach the bottom since weeds cannot grow without light.

Whitney Pond Well Construction Update – Superintendent

Mr. Orcutt presented the schedule that Wright Pierce provided which was a listing of projects with estimated completion months. Mr. Strenck transformed the list into a timeline. Mr. Fishbone pointed out that it currently looks like the project should be completed in March of 2018. Mr. McCaffrey asked if everyone involved had a copy of the schedule and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that they do. Mr. Orcutt also confirmed that the costs associated for year 1 are in the budget.

Capital Projects

Mr. Orcutt said there is nothing new to review. Meter replacement is the biggest focus right now.

Staffing Plan

Mr. Orcutt said that Dunstable reached out to Groton for assistance with their Water Department because they are falling short of some DEP requirements. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Haddad told them we cannot help at this time, but Mr. Orcutt will reconsider down the road if there could be benefit to our water department as well such as a shared operator. Mr. McCaffrey would still like Mr. Orcutt to reach out to West Groton regarding staffing.

Water Main Extension – Redskin Trail

Mr. Orcutt said 17 Redskin Trail is being bought and Mr. Grossman is requiring them to extend the water main since it is within 500 feet and they had e-coli in their well. This will enable 4-5 houses to connect to town water

if they choose to do so. Mr. Gmeiner asked who would be financing this and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that the buyer would. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve a 6 inch water main extension down Redskin Trail and to put service stubs in at the water department's expense. Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. Orcutt told the commissioners that flushing will start next week and there will be breaks in the schedule since we will need to use a lot of water. Mr. McCaffrey said this is good and people will be happy to see cleaner water.

Mr. Orcutt explained that there was a leak on Skyfield Drive and it was difficult to detect but ultimately was caused by a grounding rod puncturing the pipe. Skyfield Drive is one of the few areas in town that are hard to Digsafe because the pipes are older. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we can trace the new pipes more accurately and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that we can. Mr. Orcutt estimated that the leak was present for 3-5 years. He is going to ask Mr. Kelly for a pump and to share in the repair costs. Mr. Fishbone asked why the listening device couldn't detect the leak location and Mr. Orcutt explained that they tried using it but were not successful and added that the electrical box detector does not work with the older type of pipes on Skyfield Drive. Mr. McCaffrey asked how much water leaks from our aquifer and Mr. Orcutt said it is less than 6%.

Mr. Orcutt and Mr. McCaffrey would like Mrs. Crory to bring information to the next meeting to start reviewing to prepare for FY2019 Budget.

The commissioners agreed the next meeting dates would be October 10th and October 24th.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to accept the minutes of September 12th, 2017 as amended and Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 8 were signed.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____