

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2015 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:30 PM. Also present was Clerk, Thomas Hartnett. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

Public Hearing: 122 Old Ayer Road

Mr. Gmeiner opened the Public Hearing at 2:35 PM. Mr. Donald Black was the only resident in attendance other than the BOSC. Mr. Black asked questions with regard to sewer and what was going on with future plans at 122 Old Ayer Road. Mr. Gmeiner briefed Mr. Black that Indian Hill Music now owned the property and was looking into the possibility of connecting to Sewer. He told Mr. Black that Indian Hill had no final calculations on capacity, however since they are looking to build classrooms and an auditorium, he was optimistic that they're not looking to have residences there, which would have required more capacity than had previously been approved for the form owner, Thomas More College. Mr. Hartnett stated that Indian Hill had not yet come to full decision on exactly what they are doing there. Mr. Gmeiner added that their capacity needs seem to come in close to what was reserved for Thomas More. Mr. Black then told the BOSC that his inquiry concerned both 122 and 170 Old Ayer Road. He cited the former Rosenberger property, also now owned by Indian Hill that has 13 Bedrooms. His question was if that property on 170 Old Ayer Road would also be contiguous to the 122 Old Ayer Road for sewer purposes. Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Black "no, that would be separate". Hill Brook Orchards is also a separate parcel, and as such, would not be connected where sewer is concerned to 122 Old Ayer Road. Mr. Black also informed the hearing that, to his knowledge, the House is in "compliance" but the Cottage is "failing", and he would not want to see the BOSC get "stuck" with a difficult situation there, with regard to Sewer. Mr. Gmeiner assured him that 170 is separate from 122 Old Ayer Road. Mr. Gmeiner noted that he was thinking of asking Town Council to add a capacity limit not to exceed a # of gallons per day, on the upcoming Town Meeting Sewer Extension Warrant Article. The Hearing adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Gmeiner discussed the capacity limit and came up with the figure of 7500 gallons per day. Mr. Hartnett made a motion to add the "capacity limit clause" on to the Town Meeting Article. Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Gmeiner said that he would contact Mr. Daneski and send him the update. Mr. Hartnett stated that the BOSC needs to take a position on this article as well. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Hartnett worked out the "wording of the BOSC's *position* on the Article". Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the wording as follows: "Sewer has no objections to this Article. There is certainly sufficient capacity for what is proposed." Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gmeiner will also send the *position* to Mr. Daneski.

Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Stevens to send an email to Mr. Shepherd who is the representative for Indian Hill Music making him aware that if 122 Old Ayer Road is accepted into the Sewer District

at Town Meeting, then they will be required to connect to Sewer and that Septic will not be an option. Also, to let him know that it is quite possible that they will have to run a separate line to Route 119, and cannot tie in to Old Ayer Road.

Abatement Request 192 Hollis Street

At the request of Ms. Iannacone and in her absence, Ms. Stevens gave an update to the BOS that Mr. Spicer of 192 Hollis Street is seeking an abatement. He just put in a lawn this summer. He has Sewer, but doesn't have a second meter. He is willing to put in a second meter and had tried to apply for an abatement in June. The Water/Sewer Department told him to wait until the end of the summer in order to get all the summer readings so as to calculate properly. He is now applying for sewer charges for summer watering to be abated. He has an estimate for the 2nd meter and will be putting in the 2nd meter, if not this Fall, then by the Spring, before he starts watering. Mr. Gmeiner responded to the BOS that this would be a "one time deal" if he fails to put in another meter, he will not get another abatement. Mr. Hartnett concurred. Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Gmeiner discussed the provided numbers. Mr. Gmeiner stated that they would not be going back to 2010, just 2011 in the figuring of the usage average. After doing the calculations, Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to abate a total of 62 units for 2 Quarters, broken down as: 31 Units for June/2015, and 31 Units for September/2015. Mr. Hartnett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Review of Grinder Pump Policy

Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Stevens to send an email to Joe Jordan, Sewer Superintendent in Pepperell and ask him if he might be open to reconsidering his policy of not allowing his Sewer Technicians to enter private property in Groton or Pepperell in order to replace a core to give homeowners temporary relief in cases of emergency grinder pump failures. Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Gmeiner discussed a recent case where a grinder pump failed and Pepperell sold him a "loner" and that now it is for sale and perhaps Groton might consider buying it. He requested that Ms. Stevens contact Henry Albro at FR Mahoney and ask him to come to the next BOS meeting on October 21, 2015 to discuss spare cores/grinder pumps and where to keep them in case of emergency. He suggested that perhaps the Police or Fire Departments could provide a place to hold the spares. Once the situation is figured out, notices could be sent out to customers with grinder pumps to let them know their options in emergency situations.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the BOS will be held on **Wednesday, October 21, 2015 @ 2:30 PM.**

BILLS SIGNED

One Set of Bills and/or Invoices were signed for payment at this meeting for FY-16, EW-8.

MINUTES of September 16, 2015 – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

ADJOURN – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 PM. Mr. Hartnett and seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens, Water & Sewer Assistant