

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, March 28, 2013

1st Floor Selectman's Meeting Room

DRAFT Minutes

Present are BOWC Chair James Gmeiner, Member Martin Schaefer, Member Gary Hoglund, Water Superintendent Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager April Iannacone.

Mr. Gmeiner called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) RE: Lost Lake Sonar

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that GPAC was present as well as a few members from the Lakes Association in attendance at the meeting this evening to discuss with the Commissioners their concerns over the Sonar treatment at Lost Lake that had been addressed at the Town Meeting. Mr. Stavos Danos and Mr. Art Priest informed the Commissioners that they were present before the Board to obtain a better understanding of their concerns about the treatment process and questioned why their concerns and position on the subject had not been voiced to the GPAC before the Town Meeting. Mr. Hoglund stated that his concern is for the water rate payers that have to drink the water that we obtain from the sources the GPAC is treating with the Sonar. The Commissioners all believed that there was not enough long term documentation on any possible negative effects of the treatment to make it worth the slight risk of it ending up in the water supply. There was much disagreement and at times heated concerns amongst the members of GPAC with the opinion of the Water Commission, as well as the process that was taken on behalf of both the Commission and the GPAC in communication and exchange of information. All parties agreed to disagree on the subject matter at Lost Lake. The Water Commissioners stated that they would obtain multiple water samples during the treatment process in order to monitor their concerns.

#54 Monarch Path – Water Abatement Request

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that Mr. Ebi Masalehdan was present before the Board with concerns over his water bill at 54 Monarch Path and his abatement request. Mr. Gmeiner recused himself from the Monarch Path Abatement discussion. Mr. Masalehdan informed the Commissioners that the property had been vacant all summer and the only water use had been for the irrigation system to establish the lawn and landscape plantings. Mr. Masalehdan stated that his water bills for regular household use and lawn watering at his home at 26 Old Carriage Path had not been as high as the bills he received for the Monarch Path property. Mr. Orcutt updated the Board on all of the steps and process that the department had taken to try to resolve the situation and determine if there was any inaccuracy in the bills. At this point the meter had been tested a few times and the only determination that the water department staff could come to was that either the timing of the zones on the system were set too long or there was a leak in the irrigation lines themselves after the meter.

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that he had told Mr. Masalehdan not to pay the bill until a conclusion could be made on what the cause of the high bill was. The Commissioners requested that in the next few weeks when Mr. Masalehdan was ready to turn the irrigation system back on,

he call Mr. Orcutt to have someone present to try to determine if the meter was moving once the water line had been turned on and the sprinkler system was not yet in use.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion of the topics on his Superintendent's Report. Please see attached copy of this report for the items discussed.

Minutes

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the March 12, 2013 regular session meeting minutes as drafted. Mr. Schaefer seconded and the motion carried 2 in favor and 1 abstained (Mr. Hoglund).

Respectfully Submitted,

April Iannacone
Business Manager

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

Martin Schaefer _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

March 28, 2013

1. Unkety Brook Well Site: Zoning Article slated for spring 2013 Town Meeting.
2. Forestry Management: Trees at Baddacook marked and Forestry Cutting Plan submitted to State for their review and approval. Cutting at Baddacook and Shattuck now slated for the winter 2013 – 2014. Combining the two harvests should yield us much better bid results next summer/fall. State Forester has approved the Cutting Plan as submitted.
3. Water Facilities: Both Bid documents for the Baddacook Pond Pump Replacement Project have been signed and Shop Drawings approved. A meeting with the installation contractor and with the company that is going to furnish the pump is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th. Adjustments to the Baddacook Iron and Manganese plant have taken place – we now cycle the filters one day/one day off as opposed to running them together. This was suggested and changed in order to see if we get longer run times before backwashing.

The Baddacook Cistern has been pumped out and treated with two, high doses of sodium hypochlorite for the Iron Bacteria this month. Divers will be activated to vacuum the cistern soon.

4. Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): This report has been completed and is ready for printing and distribution. This will be the earliest it has ever been put together and mailed (a personal goal of mine).
5. Billing Software: Our billing software program is up and running. The 1st set of bills will be printed and mailed by Monday. The format is slightly different but much cleaner and much easier to read.
6. Miscellaneous: Our Spring water main flushing program will commence on or about April 10th this year and run through a good portion of the public school vacation week. Gate valves are being checked and a few key gates being closed in preparation of the flushing program. Hydrants that are flowed will be scraped and/or sand blasted in preparation of my summer painting plans (they really, really need it).