



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Thomas Hartnett

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: November 21st, 2019

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall/First Floor

Members Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Others Present: Lauren Crory/Business Manager, Vanessa Abraham and Jeffrey Pike from Groton Public Library, Josh West of Platt Builders, Ken Kolodziej owner of 44 Farmers Row

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

Groton Public Library – Billing

Ms. Abraham said that an irrigation system was installed at the Library in 2012. They only had one meter so were charged water and sewer on all usage, including irrigation. They applied for abatements each year but had some turnover and did not apply a few years, they are now wanting to apply again. She also recalled that they looked into getting an irrigation meter installed which was going to be fairly expensive. Mr. Pike asked why it would be costly and Mr. Orcutt explained that it would be a bit of a challenge to get the plumbing from the meter to the outside irrigation system. Mr. Pike asked about a easier place to position the meter and Mr. Gmeiner explained that the easier positioning would be a subtracting meter which they typically do not allow. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mrs. Crory to send them a history of usage so they can determine how much extra cost is due to irrigation as well as the cost of the second meter. Mr. Gmeiner explained that they don't want to abate every year and the Library should reconsider the second meter. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Bouchard were ok with a final abatement for this summer. Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate the Groton Public Library for the summer month's irrigation usage, Mr. Bouchard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Orcutt told them to contact a plumber for updated pricing. Dell Woodward quoted them last time.

186 Main St – Update

Mr. Orcutt explained that the board wanted Mr. West from Platt Builders to come to the meeting to recap the project so that the appropriate connection fees can be assessed. Mr. West said there is no office space in the basement of the main house, it will just be a lounge/living space. The main levels of the main house are mostly now office space. The house was previously assessed as a 5-bedroom home. Mr. Gmeiner calculated that there is not additional capacity for 5-bedroom house to be converted to office space so there will be no connection fee due for the change of use. The

carriage house will be a new connection and therefor will be assessed a connection fee of \$6000.00. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mrs. Crory to create invoices and cover letters for each property. The cover letters should state that the owners will need to contact the Board of Sewer Commissioners if there are any other future changes of use.

44 Farmers Row – Sewer Connection

Mr. Orcutt explained to the owner of 44 Farmers Row, Mr. Kolodziej, that he wanted to express his concerns with extending sewer to this property because when the fire station was being constructed the plan was to not extend sewer down Farmers Row. Mr. Bouchard asked if that was because of the road or because they didn't want those connections. Mr. Orcutt explained that this is a parcel that could be subdivided and could include two dwellings. Mr. Kolodziej does not plan to subdivide the property. Mr. Orcutt has a hard time saying yes since we said no to it about four years ago and not much has changed. Mr. Gmeiner added that typically they only extend the district if a septic system is not possible at all. Mr. Bouchard asked why we said no four years ago and Mr. Orcutt we have limited capacity and try to save it for the center district. Mr. Bouchard asked why capacity is currently an issue and Mr. Gmeiner said it is not an immediate concern but we do have a limit, but on the other hand selling our capacity would help with income. Mr. Gmeiner said that the owner has every right to pursue this sewer option but he may not want to if he knows that at least one board member is against it. Mr. Gmeiner asked that the owner, Mr. Kolodziej, attend the next meeting so that the board can discuss any concerns and make sure he is up to speed.

436 Main St

There is no update.

Pepperell IMA

There is no update.

Other Business, Bills, Minutes etc. :

Mr. Orcutt said that we need to determine if Groton Community School already paid to be connected to sewer. Mr. Gmeiner said even if they did pay, we will need an updated student and teacher count.

Mr. Orcutt discussed a bill from Pepperell for jetting and cleaning blockages on Pleasant St. We have gotten these bills in the past, although smaller, and sent them to Ozzy Filho to pay. Filho's has an undersized grease trap so there is some overflow which can cause these blockages. Mr. Gmeiner would like Mr. Filho to come to the next meeting to discuss. This bill is higher than in the past.

Next Meeting – December 4th, 2019

BILLS SIGNED – EW12 Invoices signed

MINUTES- No minutes approved.

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
