

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, and Michael Ohl of CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Manganese – Schedule, Piloting, Concept Plan, Finances, Consent Order, Milestones, #2 (Final)

Mr. Ohl revised the Concept Plan based on the discussions at our previous meeting. The plan should now have a stronger focus on the Whitney onsite treatment option. He also created an updated Whitney Well Treatment Plant floorplan which the Board reviewed. Any PFAS treatment would be a separate structure, the iron & manganese filters should last a very long time so don't need to worry about getting in there to replace them, there will be rolling stairs to access the top of the vessels, there is a kitchen on the plan which is up for discussion, drains and de-humidifiers will be installed. Mr. Ohl will submit the revised Concept Plan to MA DEP and will send 6 printed copies to the Groton Water Department.

Whitney Well – Expansion and Capacity

Mr. Orcutt said he has a placeholder article for a town meeting transfer for the Whitney Well Expansion project. Mr. Ohl will get him the number as soon as possible.

Longley Road Project Update

Mr. Gmeiner did some research on requests for waivers of development fees. He said the regulations state that there are no waivers of development fees unless the district is substantially improved. A developer would need to be able to prove the system improvements to the Board. Mr. Orcutt said that one benefit is better fire protection to the town. Mr. Gmeiner said the current plans are a dead end but would benefit the system more if it was a loop. The Board discussed how much water would be used and how much rate income would be made and it is not significant. Mr. McCaffrey noted that it would not increase our summer pumping much since they are condominiums.

Superintendent's Report: Water Levels and Pumping, Summer Water Conservation Program & Current Restrictions and Conditions, 2nd Water Meter Policy

Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Orcutt discussed the pulling of the boards and would like a more controlled approach moving forward. Mr. McCaffrey said all boards should be out before ice so that people can safely remove their docks.

Mr. Orcutt said we are pumping 6-7 hours per day; the draw down is ok but recovery is slightly down. There is still not much rain in the forecast.

Mr. Orcutt recapped his 2nd water meter policy which requires new irrigation systems to have a 2nd water meter installed. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there was a policy now and Mr. Orcutt thinks there may have been a vote but no policy. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adopt the 2nd Water Meter Policy as written, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Manganese Open Forum

Mr. Orcutt revised the Manganese timeline and would like the Board to thoroughly review to make sure everyone is in agreement.

Mr. McCaffrey asked when we will be presenting at a Select Board Meeting and Mr. Orcutt said after town meeting so Mid-October would be best. We will send the Select Board the information ahead of time. Mr. Orcutt said the most recent sample levels did show an uptick, most likely due to having lower water levels in the wells.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. Orcutt informed the Board that Mrs. Crory will be going on Maternity Leave at some point between December and April. He proposed hiring a temporary employee to help with Mrs. Crory and Mrs. Livezey's duties while she is out. The Board discussed what the employee will do, how many hours, and the rate of pay for both the temporary employee and current employee, Ann Livezey, who will be taking on more responsibilities. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Mrs. Livezey's hours and pay would go back to normal upon Mrs. Crory's return and Mr. Orcutt said they would.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory