



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: August 19th, 2020

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

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

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager,
Luke Kenney, Katie Kenney and Judy Anderson

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00P.M.

Blackbird Café – Capacity

Mr. Kenney told the BOSC that they are in the process of buying the unit 493 Main Street next door from their current location that they lease now at 491 Main Street. He also said they are coming upon their 10-year Anniversary of being in business in Groton. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Kenney if the plan was to add more seats and he replied "yes". Mr. Kenney said in 2010 they started out with 15 seats, then they increased to 25 more seats including outside/seasonal seating. Now they would like to increase to a total of 50 seats. Mr. Kenney did say that all his locations will remain closed to the general public until a vaccine for COVID becomes available. Mr. Bouchard told Mr. Kenney that sewer capacity might be different at that level of seating and asked if there are any other changes being made. Mr. Kenney replied that they are installing a hood and currently they do not have one. He told the BOSC that they are basically picking up out of 491 Main and moving to 493 Main. Mr. Bouchard asked if there is a grease trap and Mr. Kenney replied that the unit, they are buying has one in the floor. He told the BOSC in speaking with the BOH they suggested installing a new one and it will flow right into the existing one. Mr. Kenney also stated that they do not fry or use a lot of grease in their business. He did say his Acton location has two and Burlington has one and they are serviced quarterly.

Mr. Gmeiner said according to Title V it is 35 gpd/per seat. Mr. Orcutt suggested we look and see how they went from 15-25 and now the request is for 50 seats. Mr. Gmeiner said he can remember the original space was for retail and our regulations are geared to new building space the way the regulations were written. He said he recalls that the applicant did buy capacity at one point in time. Mr. Gmeiner said the regulations do not say transferable and asked the BOSC if this was something they would waive and transfer to the new place. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we should look at the records on file. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we should give a credit toward the new unit and now that the regulations have changed, we end up calculating capacity to equate to a 3-bedroom house. So, the fee would be 13 seats x 45/gpd divided by 330 x \$6,000.00= \$10,636.00. He told Mr. Kenney if he wanted 25 seats it would be same calculation.

Mr. Orcutt said he does not have a problem transferring, but if it was across the street he might, but since it is next door, he is ok with it. Mr. Bouchard was in agreement with what Mr. Orcutt said and Mr. Gmeiner said it is the same business he would be inclined to waive the regulations. Mr. Orcutt agreed and said because it's the same general business in the same complex he is fine with it. Mr. Kenney said the license from the town was 15 seats originally and now we have 25 and thought that may have been due to seasonal seating. Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Kenney we would review our files and get back to him.

Mr. Kenney said he was not expecting a fee like that and asked if financing was an option. Mr. Orcutt said that if the commission sets up a payment plan it is usually done when the permit is pulled. Mr. Gmeiner recalls this being done for Gibbet Hill and said he is willing to work with Mr. Kenney. Mr. Orcutt asked if this was achievable and Mr. Kenney said maybe \$3k down and \$1K a month. Mr. Gmeiner suggested he run his numbers and see what works.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to transfer sewer capacity the current address of 491 Main Street to 493 G Main Street for the Blackbird Café and 491 Main Street capacity will remain at retail. Mr. Bouchard Seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt – Aye and Bouchard - Aye

108 Pleasant Street

Mr. Gmeiner asked if anything new and Mr. Orcutt replied that Mr. Lagasse was working with Susan and gave him some rough numbers for the grinder pump cost. He was ballpark \$75K to \$80K for septic. Mr. Orcutt said he suspects in the spring we may see a town meeting article. Mr. Orcutt asked if we could do a Deed Restriction that limits the dwelling to one 5-bed and one 3-bed. Mr. Gmeiner said legal restrictions are problematic. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we amend our policy and not accept something two weeks before town meeting.

29 Whiting Avenue – Sewer Abatement

Mr. Kubick of 29 Whiting Avenue submitted an abatement form saying his typical use was 21 units and he was billed for 53 units. He explained that during this time he had planted several new flower gardens so that caused the spike.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve a one-time abatement 31-units

Mr. Orcutt suggested that the customer install a 2nd meter for outdoor watering. Mr. Bouchard said it makes sense to encourage that and he also said there should be an administrative fee of \$75 on a 2nd request. Mr. Gmeiner said the BOSC usually gives a one- time chance. Mr. Orcutt said it makes financial sense to install a 2nd meter when doing a lot of outdoor watering otherwise they will come in every year for an abatement.

Mr. Orcutt rescinded his original motion

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to abate 31-sewer units at \$398.05 and if there is a similar request there would be a \$75.00 Administrative Charge. Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt – Aye and Bouchard - Aye

Indian Hill – Sewer

Nothing new at this time

Shaw's – Sewer Connection

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC we need to be certain on the sq. ft. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Bouchard suggested we use the 65,502 according to the Assessors records. Mr. Rafferty had 68,842 including the open porch space and Mr. Grossman suggested we don't use that. Mr. Gmeiner agreed to go with that and asked that an invoice be sent out.

227 Boston Road – Sewer Connection

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that their engineer has asked for information about connecting inside or outside. Mr. Orcutt thought outside, but Mr. Rafferty wanted inside.

Reserve Funds for both Districts

Mr. Orcutt said a rough number for a transfer for 436 Main would be \$50k and he feels we do not have to do anything for Four Corners. Mr. Gmeiner asked what we would do for Dig Safes down there and Mr. Orcutt replied that we do not have staff to do them and Ayer does not want to do it. Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that we need to iron out a 3rd party for emergencies and suggested we reach out to Mr. Rafferty and see what companies are available. He also told the BOSC we should transfer a couple of thousand to cover the Dig Safes. Mr. Orcutt told Ms. Crory to transfer \$5k for third party services.

Moulton Sewer Extension – Oriole Drive

Mr. Gmeiner asked if Mr. Moulton was moving forward with Oriole Drive and Mr. Orcutt replied yes and we should get as built soon. He told the BOSC that a permit was pulled for one house and a foundation was poured.

436 Main Street

Mr. Orcutt said he got a set plans and gave to Shepco and also gave them Mr. Rafferty's number for specifics. Mr. Orcutt also told the BOSC Mr. Lagasse should have something by the end of the month.

Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Gmeiner asked if one was submitted for Four Corners District and one for the Center Sewer District and Mr. Orcutt replied "Yes"

Four Corner Regulations

Will discuss at the next meeting.

Next Meeting –September 9th, 2020

BILLS SIGNED - No bills were signed at this meeting

MINUTES: - No minutes were approved at this meeting

ADJOURN – *Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:42PM, Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call:
Gmeiner – Aye and Bouchard - Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant