



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: April 7th, 2021

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

Members Virtually Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Not Virtually Present: Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant and Lauren Crory/Business Manager,
Judy Anderson, Bob Collins, Stan Dillis, Susan Bryan, David Manugian & Edith Griffin

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

227 Boston Road – Lindemer Sewer Connection Update

Mr. Manugian came before the BOSC regarding the Lindemer private easement and as finance committee member he was curious as to why the commission would only allow 227 Boston Road to connect and not allow all abutters down 119 to connect.

Mr. Gmeiner replied in past for a sewer connection, properties that are served are responsible to pay for the connection. For this connection if we were extending as town, it would be down by Johnson's and corner of Lindemer and would include the property across the hill and they would be responsible to pay for that. If we are running the line as public entity, we are paying prevailing wages and bidding laws and the cost would be expensive. For this connection we had one person who wanted the line extended to them and we do not want to be responsible in maintaining it. It will be a private line; we don't mind which way they go if it be down 119 or an easement thru Country Club.

Mr. Manugian said this information was helpful and asked if this will apply to 108 Pleasant Street connection. He feels with the Lindemer connection its owners process was to go down 119 and now they are requesting something of the town to get an easement and because it's an individual requesting the easement it raises some questions for the town. If this is a second one with 108 Pleasant Street, he fears this will become a trend in town. Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Manugian we can discuss when we open up the public hearing.

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town of Groton Sewer Regulations, and the Policy and Guidelines for a Submission to Extend Sewer District, the Groton Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 7th, 2021 at 2:15 P.M. via Virtual Meeting using Zoom Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order to consider a proposed sewer extension to the property shown on Assessors' Map 109, Lot 43-0 being a portion of 108 Pleasant Street. Please see Meeting posted at <https://www.grotonma.gov/events/> for details regarding Zoom meeting information.

The Public hearing was opened at 2:15 PM and Mr. Gmeiner stated that the notice was published in the Groton Herald for one week only, but was put up on the Groton Herald's Web Site on March 29th. He also added that all the abutters have been notified by Ms. Bryan.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to waive the strict compliance policy for extending the sewer district by allowing the notice of March 29th online and published in the paper on April 2nd Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Mr. Collins stated he was here on behalf of Ms. Bryan along with Mr. Dillis to extend 108 Pleasant into the sewer district, also known as "The Elms". Mr. Collins also said that the property has recently failed Title V and he feels the connection to sewer would help preserve the property and have an environmental benefit rather than an onsite system.

Mr. Collins told the BOSC that the property consists of Five Assessors Parcels and years ago Mr. Antonelli subdivided it and the house and carriage house are on Parcels 109-43 and the other Four Parcels have conservation restrictions on them. Only Parcel 109-43 is to be in the District. Mr. Collins said he is sure people are concerned that extending the district to this property could lead to a larger development, but in this case, there are conservation restrictions held by the Conservation Trust. He also stated that Ms. Bryans brother gifted those restrictions years ago.

Mr. Collins told the BOSC that the property is residential structure consisting of 2 units the main house is a total of 5 beds and apartment in carriage house is 2-beds and there is no proposed change and will remain the same. As far as a Time frame, Ms. Bryan would like to do this year and alternative option would be on-site system and they feel this would disrupt the land

Mr. Collins said the pathway they looked at would come out Pleasant Street or go back toward West Street and ultimately go to Mill Street. They feel that the best route would be to go out the rear of the property and connect to the gravity line on Mill Street. He feels this would be less problematic for future homeowner and they would not need pumps and it's a more direct route. The other boards involved would be HDC, which Mr. Collins will consult with even though it's below the ground as a courtesy they will be notified of the excavation. When the pipe leaves the Bryan property it will be in a public way, so he would consult with the Select Board and Mr. Delaney/DPW for a road opening permit. He acknowledged all costs are all on applicant and will need an engineered plan to be approved. Also, they are aware that the installation needs to be by somebody approved as a drainlayer.

Mr. Collins added to answer Mr. Manugian question, this would be distinguishable from Mr. Lindemer's connection because the pipe will connect to municipal sewer and will be in the public way, so this is not going across town property. This will be in the public way where public utilities should be situated.

Mr. Dillis did some research and said it would be a shorter route, to connect at Pleasant but after inspecting the house the plumbing is low and in the back of the buildings. He feels it makes more sense to go gravity even though it's a longer distance to connect to Mill Street. It's a pretty straight shot and there will be no wetlands impacted. Mr. Dillis said he is in the process of doing survey and design.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if it's run out Mill Street, how much involvement would be in road and told Mr. Dillis if you are digging road Mr. Delaney will want paved. Mr. Dillis said if we went in straight line, it would be 100-foot trench in Mill Street, but he would like to avoid.

Mr. Bouchard asked with the conservation restriction is any building allowed. Mr. Collins said "No", you can run utilities but cannot construct buildings on it, but you could do a septic system. Mr. Gmeiner asked if a pool was allowed and Mr. Collins said accessory things, but pretty restricted.

Ms. Griffin who is an abutter on West Street thought this is a great idea based on what she has heard today and would not want to see any damage being done to the East Side of the property.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to close the Public Hearing for 108 Pleasant Street at 2:40p.m., Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Mr. Bouchard said he has no issues with what was presented and the fact it has a failed septic system and he feels a mounted system would cause visual impact of the property. He is also in support of going out Mill Street.

Mr. Gmeiner said we do have capacity and feels the septic system would be a visual impact of the formal gardens and the failing Title V and he would be in favor of the connection. Mr. Gmeiner feels there would be two connection fees, but we will have to review and see if there is extra ERU's. Mr. Bouchard asked if the bedroom count would affect the size of the pipe. Mr. Dillis replied "no" that a 4" line can handle ten times the amount.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion that the BOSC make a recommendation to submit an article at Town Meeting for extending the District to 108 Pleasant Street, Parcel 109 - 43. Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner- Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Shaw's Sewer Connection

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC he sent an email to Mr. Irvine that we are still working on the adjusted invoice. Mr. Bouchard said that he thought the memo from Mr. Rafferty was informative. Mr. Gmeiner said he would like to review it more closely and said he thought there was some extra costs involved. Mr. Bouchard asked one being the private inspections and being necessary, he pointed out that problems that can occur if not done and suggested they are done. He did say we could consider a town agent and not an engineer, but it needs to be done. Mr. Gmeiner added that all work needs to be done by a licensed drain layer.

Mr. Bouchard suggested we update our inspection requirements.

Florence Roche School - Capacity

No updates at this time

Prescott - Capacity Charges

No updates at this time

1-3 Forge Village – Sewer Connection

No updates at this time

436 Main Street

No updates at this time

Discuss Developing a Policy Regarding Abatements

No updates at this time

Discussion of Proposed Sewer Commission Web Site

Mr. Bouchard is working with Mr. Chiasson and will have an update soon

FY21 & FY22 Budget

No updates at this time

Next Meeting –April 21st, 2021

BILLS SIGNED- No bills were signed at this meeting

MINUTES: - No minutes were approved

ADJOURN – *Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 PM. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner – Aye*

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant