

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, June 15th, 2021
Live

Minutes

Present at the meeting is Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt (taking meeting minutes) and Michael Ohl of CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Manganese Treatment Plant – Owners Project Manager update:

Mr. Ohl updated the Board of Water Commissioners on a number of items regarding the progress of the Water Treatment Facility. The Conservation Commission issued a negative determination on the RDA submitted by EP as they have no jurisdictional authority over the project as there are no wetlands involved on the project site. The Planning Board had very few comments on the pre-submission for the Site Plan Review for the project other than to be sure that requested waivers be made very clear. A full site plan submission will be made in August for the project. EP has submitted 30% Design Plans to the Central Regional Office of DEP for review and comment. The GWD has received comments from DEP regarding the backwash handling at the Whitney Treatment Site and EP, CEI and the GWD will review and address with DEP-CERO. Infiltration testing was completed at the Whitney Treatment Sites by EP and their sub-consultant. The GWD, EP, CEI will be meeting with GELD regarding overhead transmission of electricity as well as temporary power to the site for the Whitney Well #3. Mr. Orcutt was also asked to discuss daily peak demand management rates for the site.

The OPM also discussed the Memo they prepared on the cost escalation for project based on the 30% design costs prepared by EP sub-consultant and explained why the price is higher (see attached Memo from CEI).

The Chairman asked the OPM if he could look into the Piloting Study prepared by Blue Leaf to be sure that it accurately reflects the treatment process proposed by CEI and EP and report back to the Board.

The Board discussed the possibility of Head Losses from the pumps in Whitney #1 and #2 now that it must be forced through the filters and then into the system. EP has conducted flow tests at the site and is reviewing the Hydraulic Model to be sure no upgrades to the pump stations are required and if there upgrades, what they would entail.

Whitney Well III – progress update, schedule:

Mike Ohl updated the Board on progress work at the Proposed Whitney Pond Well Site. Drillers have installed the 2” test wells this week. The Site Exam with Mass DEP went very well with no issues raised by Susan Connors. The Pump Test is scheduled for the 3rd week of July and is anticipated to be at a rate of 350 gpm. If this rate is obtained, it would equate to a potential rated well site of 700 gpm. CEI is anticipating an approval of the Site Exam later this week. The Drillers will be installing an 8” test well at the site.

There was a discussion with Mike Ohl that if the proposed future well site is approved for 600 or 700 gpm, consideration should be given to sizing the proposed water treatment plant for 1,200 gpm or more. The Board wanted to be sure we were getting all we could out of the plant as well as the ground sources and not re-visit a plant expansion in the immediate future. CEI and the Superintendent will look into this with EP.

Michael Ohl will revise his permitting and construction schedule for the Board and come up with revised construction cost estimate by August so we can be prepared for the Fall Town Meeting.

The Board then voted to approve Phase #2 of the New Source Approval for Whitney Well #3. The motion was made by J. Gmeiner and 2nd by G. Fishbone – the vote was unanimous.

Redskin Trail/Boathouse Rd Water Main Extensions- Discussion/Fact Sheet

The Superintendent has prepared documents for the two open forums for the scheduled later this week for Boathouse Rd. and Redskin Trail. The Superintendent is planning on conducting both public forums and answer questions.

Other Business: Budget, Bills, Minutes, Meeting Schedule

The Board voted to transfer \$15,000.00 from general expenses to wages to cover wages for maternity leave to Administrative Assistant and wages for working out of class in the absence of the Water Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously

The End of Year Budget was reviewed and it appears as though we will have an estimated \$407K Reserve Fund Balance less the Manganese Fund when certified in September. So that is very good news.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6th as amended, May 18th with no changes and May 25th with amendments Mr. Gmeiner seconded all the motions and all the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be later this month in order to close the Fiscal Year – TBD.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Orcutt

May 25th, 2021