

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory and Bob Rafferty, and Hanna Schenkel from Environmental Partners.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and announced that the meeting was being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

**Manganese Treatment Plant**

Ms. Schenkel said that all masonry has been completed inside the building. The upper-level concrete pour will be coming up and the slab reseal will be coming up. The electrical work will also be starting. There have been 324/327 submittals 53/55 RFIs returned. There are 8 potential change orders and 6 have been accepted and 2 rejected. The solar panels will result in another change order. The April pay requisition has been received and it is being reviewed and commented on. Next week is the next on-site project meeting.

Mr. Fishbone asked if there has been any progress on the solar panel grant and Mr. Orcutt said he received a signed copy of the grant from the state. Bob Rafferty will get him the specifics and then a change order will be issued and the cost will be about \$103,000. Mr. Fishbone asked about the sourcing of the panels and Mr. Orcutt said the engineers will handle it and make sure they are made in the United States.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the floor correction and Ms. Schenkel said that the repair process will begin this week and they will check it before it is resealed. Ms. Schenkel believes they will be resealing it on Monday.

**Whitney Pond Well #3**

Mr. Orcutt said that our technicians have been running a soft start and are being trained. DEP is tentatively scheduled for an inspection next week.

**500 Main St – Groton Farms Updates**

Mr. Orcutt is working on the MassWorks grant and hopes it will be submitted as soon as possible and will be reviewed by Bob Rafferty and Mark Haddad. We will be asking John Amaral to submit some funds to a revolving account so the engineering can be started. They also asked Mr. Amaral for funds to work on the hydraulic model. Once the hydraulic model is complete, we can tell ZBA that we have no problem with the plans. Mr. Fishbone asked about the MassWorks grant and Mr. Orcutt water infrastructure 8” water main from Taylor St to project site and loop

out to Main St. This would fund the water infrastructure for the site. This was taken into consideration when discussion connection fees. MR. Orcutt said there is a good chance at getting the grant.

### **Baddacook Pond Weed Harvesting – Contribution**

Mr. Orcutt said that Mr. Luening is asking if the Water Department is still committed to the \$10,000 contribution in FY24. Mr. Fishbone clarified that we will match the town, up to \$10,000.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to continue the commitment up to \$10,000, matching the town's contribution, in FY24, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt said a pipe was replaced recently. Whitney Well II was mechanically cleaned because there was a dip in the drawdown. Mr. Orcutt said before October and November we may do a chemical cleaning of Whitney Well I and II before the treatment plant comes online. We will then be able to use Whitney Well III during cleaning.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Orcutt said there is a meeting next week with Dunstable and Pepperell to review some issues. Mr. Orcutt will invite Mr. Gmeiner to the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the engineers are working on SRF applications and Mr. Orcutt said not yet. Mr. Orcutt and the engineers are confident they can get water to the high school for fall of 2024. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there has been a consent order with DEP yet and Mr. Orcutt said not yet (with the high school).

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to approve the minutes April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as amended, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:58, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

May 9th, 2023