

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, December 5th, 2023  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Vice Chairman (acting Chairman) Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory and Dave Patangia, and Tyler Schmidt from Environmental Partners. Members of a local boy scout troop joined the meeting also.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

**Manganese Treatment Plant**

Mr. Schmidt said that Harbor Controls is working on programming, startup of iron and manganese removal. Work is also being done on chemical metering and pumps, HVAC, lighting, sub ceiling, doors and frames, interior trim, and insulation. Chemicals have been delivered, propane has been delivered and the wooden guard rail is installed. There have been 413/422 submittals returned and 72/74 RFIs returned. The change orders amount to approximately \$150,000, which is 1.9% of contract value. Pay requisition #18 was just received and is for \$475,000. There is 6% of project left to be billed with 11% retainage. MA DEP inspection is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>. Environmental Partners released a letter to DEP that start up is not on schedule. Mr. Fishbone told the guests that that this is an update from the engineers on our new treatment plant.

Mr. Orcutt asked if R.H. White got back to Mr. Schmidt on the schedule. R.H. White is waiting to hear back from vendors because they will need all vendors there during start up. Mr. Orcutt said it is going to be tough to keep the December 19<sup>th</sup> appointment with DEP. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Fishbone may attend the December 7<sup>th</sup> on-site meeting.

**Whitney Pond Well #3**

Whitney Pond Well #3 is tied into the Treatment Plant and is running to waste now. The VFD was relocated to the Treatment Plant. Mr. Gmeiner asked how long we have been running to waste. Mr. Orcutt said it is intermittent.

**Superintendent's & Business Manager's Updates**

Mrs. Crory discussed what will be reviewed at the rate hearing. Mrs. Crory said that we will be reviewing the income shortfall and the extra expenses to be incurred this fiscal year as we discuss a temporary charge to offset the budget shortfall. We will also look at the potential temporary PFAS treatment for Whitney Well III to see if the extra irrigation use can pay for the PFAS treatment. Mr. Fishbone asked if we can get a firm quote from the engineers. Mr. Gmeiner

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said we should also find out if you can rent it for two months or if there is a minimum time limit. Mr. Orcutt and Mrs. Crory will reach out to the engineers.

Mrs. Crory explained the abatement request at 100 Boston Rd. The owners received a large bill at the end of the summer and contacted the office. Mrs. Crory reviewed the usage with them and found the irrigation system was running almost daily at high volumes. They found out the rain sensor was failing. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Gmeiner have noticed this property irrigating in the rain for years and are not inclined to offer an abatement. They feel as though an employees should have seen this and fixed the issue. Mr. Fishbone made a motion to deny the abatement request from 100 Boston Rd, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt said the technicians are beginning training at the treatment plant.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Fishbone approved the minutes of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as amended, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Members of the boy scouts asked for an explanation of PFAS and Mr. Orcutt explained that they are contaminants that last forever.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory