

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF March 04, 2015 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:35 P.M. Also present were the Vice Chairman, Thomas Orcutt, the Clerk, Thomas Hartnett and Business Manager, April Iannacone. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

Discussion of Spring Flow Rates – I & I

Mr. Gmeiner requested that the Commissioners take home the handout with regard to Groton Flows and I & I Measurements (attached) along with the accompanying Spring 2015 Treatment Estimation Schedule (attached) for a more in-depth preview in preparation for discussion at the next BOSC meeting. The board was in agreement.

Financials

Ms. Iannacone updated the BOSC on Sewer Budget Financials and noted that due to an income that was normally received in January but was not received until the beginning of February, her estimation for projected shortfall for FY15 was reduced by approximately \$50,000. This information would prove to reduce her recommendation for monies to be transferred from E&D into the Operating Budget for FY 16 going forward.

Other Business

Due to the last minute recommendation by the ZBA, the BOSC met with Bob Margolis, Contractor, regarding the Halloran property at 43 Pleasant Street in order to determine whether or not the renovations at such property would require additional sewer capacity. Mr. Margolis described his intention to renovate by stating that he would be converting a bedroom on the first floor to a bathroom, adding a small addition as a bedroom and making the screen porch into a 3 season porch, thus not adding any more bedrooms. Mr. Gmeiner asked him how many rooms there would be not counting the kitchen and bathrooms. Mr. Margolis said there are currently 2 bedrooms upstairs and one bedroom downstairs. Mr. Orcutt interjected the question to Mr. Margolis “are there more than 9 rooms total?” They counted 3 bedrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living-room, 1 dining-room and adding 2 rooms for a total of 8 rooms (which include all renovations). Since the 8 room-count was under the 9 room-count limit, Mr. Orcutt made a motion that the 43 Pleasant Street Owner, Mr. Halloran, was *not required* to purchase additional sewer capacity for said renovations. Mr. Hartnett seconded and the vote carried unanimously. Mr. Gmeiner requested that Ms. Iannacone send an e-mail to the ZBA informing them of the decision in this matter.

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to find out where Pepperell was in terms of the draft for the EPA permitting. He wanted to know how close they are to signing off on the Draft 17PDES permit. Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve Woodard & Currans’ engineering services scope and fee proposal for the pressure transducer. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

93 Mill Street – Review Letter Re: Sewer District

Ms. Iannacone submitted to the BOSC 3 letters (attached) regarding 93 Mill Street and Mr. Brockelman, Owner. First, was the original letter from Mr. Brockelman requesting not to be included in the Sewer District; in addition, a draft letter to Mr. Brockelman thanking him for his letter and an enclosed formal request letter, to be signed and returned to the BOSC by Mr. Brockelman. Ms. Iannacone asked that the BOSC review the letters and make any revisions as necessary before they are mailed out. Mr. Gmeiner stated that he wants to make it clear that Mr. Brockelman would be giving up all rights to the benefit of what the small portion of his property would allow him and, if down the road, he decides he wants to connect to the Sewer, he would need to start all over again. The BOSC was in agreement. Mr. Gmeiner made a few revisions to the letters and shared them with the Board. Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the revisions as made by the Chairman, Mr. Gmeiner. Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Thomas More College – Discussion of Old Ayer Road Connection

2 handouts (attached) were the main focus of discussion regarding the property at 122 Old Ayer Road, which is currently owned by the Thomas More Foundation. A memorandum from the Board of Health to the BOSC requested clarity as to whether or not Sewer Connection going to be available at the aforementioned property location, since currently, said property was certified to have a failed subsurface sewage disposal (SDS) in 2007, but at the same time, Title 5 also prohibits the installation of an SDS when a sanitary sewer system is available. The letter from Attorney Robert Collins to the BOH, was in support of possibly installing a newly designed SDS for just existing house and stable. Mr. Gmeiner recollected that since this issue was subjected to a Town Meeting Vote in 2011, he believed that there was a stipulation in that warrant that connecting to Sewer was allowed *only for an educational facility*, such as Thomas More College. Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Orcutt remembered similarly. Mr. Gmeiner requested that Ms. Iannacone send a letter to the BOH stating that “there is currently no Collegiate Educational Facility currently connected to Sewer on said property as required by the Town Meeting vote of 2011, and therefore, the Sewer is not to be expanded and is not available to said property per Title 5.” He also requested that he be copied on that letter.

BILLS SIGNED

EW-19 Bills and/or Invoices were signed for payment at this meeting.

Minutes:

One set of minutes for 2/18/2015 were approved as drafted at this meeting.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hartnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 P.M. Mr. Orcutt seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens
Water & Sewer Assistant