

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2016 MEETING  
2:00 PM – TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:00 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, and Clerk, Thomas Hartnett. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

**37 Longley Road Discussion**

Russ Harris of 25 Longley Road, and Krystin MacInnis of 37 Longley Road were both in attendance at this part of the meeting. Mr. Gmeiner began the meeting asking Mrs. MacInnis if anything had significantly changed since her last meeting with the BOSC. She then explained her individual situation to Mr. Harris regarding her septic situation and the roadblocks to engineering on her land with regard to attempting to hook up to Sewer. She said she had also reached to her neighbor, Andrew, on 33 Longley Road and was thinking of sending a letter to her neighbor, Brian, of 43 Longley Road. She further stated that Andrew wants to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> bedroom and is interested in hearing the costs to connect. For the benefit of Mr. Harris, Mr. Gmeiner explained that if the Town were to do the work to connect 3 properties to Sewer, the cost would be \$115K for all three of the properties. This would not include the cost of a grinder pump, Betterment Assessment, and Capacity. He said that if the Town were to do the work, it would come to a total of \$53K for each of the 3 homeowners. Mr. Harris said that he believed it would cost half the price to do the work privately. His idea was that if he were to give Mrs. MacInnis an *easement* and come across Andrew's property and upwards, they could avoid digging out of the road and would save them on costs for digging, repaving, detail officers, etc. Mrs. MacInnis suggested getting another neighbor, Mr. Greer, in agreement as well. Mr. Orcutt offered that all the neighbors meet and talk about it. Mr. Harris questioned about the Wetlands on the property, Mr. Orcutt responded that it would be what is called a "temporary disturbance." Mr. Harris said that he was willing to negotiate and solve the issue early-on to avoid his children inheriting the problem. It was also mentioned that Mrs. MacInnis would also have to become connected to Water and would require 2 trenches, one on either side of her driveway. Mr. Hartnett agreed that if they do it privately, it would be a huge savings to them. Mr. Gmeiner stated that the Sewer part would be out of the BOSC's hands if they decide to go with the easement method. He said that there would still have to be a Town Meeting Vote to approve extending the Sewer District. If that could happen, then work could be done in November or December of this year. He strongly suggested that they extend the District *first*, before doing any digging. Mr. Orcutt reiterated that Mrs. MacInnis needs to talk to Andrew and then the Greer's. If it were to go from Greer's to Harris' driveway and across to MacInnis they would need 2 easements. He also told them they would need an engineer to get a recorded easement. The BOSC suggested Ross & Associates, Stan Dillis, and Hartnett. Mr. Harris asked if he needed a grinder pump and he was advised by Mr. Orcutt that he would be better off with one due to low pressure. Mr. Gmeiner recommended them going to the Nashoba Associated Boards of

Health regarding the subject of Irrigation for a private water well. Mrs. MacInnis questioned the BOSC as to the urgency of her neighbor, Andrew, hooking up if he were to be included in the District. Mr. Gmeiner responded that if he cannot afford to do it right now, and if he grants an easement, he could install a future stub if he's not in the District. Otherwise, he said, if he is included in the District, he will be forced to connect when the Mandatory Sewer By-Law kicks in. He also said the Greer's would need to grant her an easement if she goes across their property. Mrs. MacInnis then asked about the October Meeting. The BOSC replied that as long as 2 or 3 of you are in agreement, they can get the Sewer Extension on the Town Meeting Warrant for as long as they want it on there and they can pull the article, if need be, at the last minute. Mr. Orcutt offered his assistance with regard to Mr. Lagasse for the digging. Mr. Harris clarified, as a marker, that the cost for "Tearing Up Longley" route would be: 3 residents x \$53K = \$159K total and the cost for getting easements across abutters properties would be \$75K divided by 3 = \$25K/each at the most.

### **Partridgeberry Woods Draft Letter - Discussion**

The BOSC looked over the PBW Letter regarding proper disposal of grease which had been edited for final approval. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to accept the PBW Letter and Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The letter will be mailed out in the coming week by Ms. Stevens.

### **Inter-municipal Agreement Discussion**

Mr. Bob Rafferty was in attendance as was requested at the previous meeting to be of assistance to Groton in their Inter-municipal Agreement with Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner asked him what the best basis for allocating costs would be. Mr. Rafferty asked him to clarify if he was referring to flow or costs. Mr. Gmeiner said he wanted to start with costs and how to allocate treatment only. Mr. Rafferty explained that costs on sampling are not billed on load but are based on flow (1800 to get a 24 hour day), less if they grab samples a couple times a day. He said copper and phosphorus is a concern as well. Mr. Orcutt said that it would be nice to know what we have and that it might be advantageous to have those numbers as a starting point. Mr. Rafferty added that determining how much of the upgrade is necessary or just "nice to do" would also be a factor. Mr. Gmeiner mentioned that he had a lot of questions regarding the same. He said that when he attended the "roll out" meeting in Pepperell, he learned that some of the upgrade would be repairing old buildings with roofs from the 1980's and sludge handling, sludge holding systems and talk of hauling sludge to the nearest incinerator. Mr. Orcutt suggested meeting with Mr. Rafferty once a month for his assistance. He said Pepperell wants initiation coming from Groton. Mr. Gmeiner said that Pepperell seemed to indicate that standard forms are all pretty much the same with a 1 month peak as opposed to a rolling average which hurts Groton in the Spring. He indicated to Mr. Rafferty that these are the things the BOSC would like your help with. Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that he will get right to work on it. He agreed to attend the first meeting in August on 8/3/16 at 2:30 PM and he would perform phosphorous and copper testing. Mr. Rafferty referred to September testing.

**Other Business**

Mr. Gmeiner asked that Ms. Stevens invite Mike Bouchard, Town Clerk, to the next BOSC Public Hearing on Sewer Regulation Revisions on July 27, 2016.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held **Wednesday, July 27, 2016 @ 2:00 PM** to allow for the Public Hearing with regard to Sewer Regulation Revisions.

**BILLS SIGNED**

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-17, Expense Warrants (EW-01).

**MINUTES of June 15, 2016** – Mr. Hartnett made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried by majority.

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens,  
Water & Sewer Assistant