

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member Jim Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Bob Rafferty and Dave Patangia from Environmental Partners, and Michael Ohl and Scott Simpson from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, revised schedule

Mr. Patangia incorporated the water commissioner's comments and Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Knox's comments and would like permission to submit the 75% Design Plan to DEP. He said the cost estimator is showing just under \$8.7 million. Our Stormwater and Planning Board applications are submitted and we should hear back soon. We are also waiting on approval for our tight tank application. Mr. Patangia said they have reached out to Fire Department to set up a meeting with them. They have knocked off a lot of milestones and are on track to submit the 100% Design Plan in November. They have also had calls with CEI about the Whitney Well III pump sizing. Mr. Orcutt said there is one more permit for Earth Removal to remove gravel and give it to DPW, so we need to file that with the Selectboard. Mr. Patangia said no meeting has been scheduled with Board of Health yet. Mr. Orcutt said we have not heard back from DEP on the extension request. If he does not hear anything by Friday he will reach out to Bob Boswick.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to submit the 75% design package to DEP as a courtesy with the Board's comments, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt said we need to decide on the color of the building and the options are green, red or grey. Mr. Orcutt's vote would be grey. Mr. Patangia said we don't need to tell them now but Mr. Orcutt will want to decide by Town Meeting so he can present a picture. Mr. Rafferty will get them some grey swatches.

Whitney Pond #3 – progress update, schedule

Mr. Ohl said they are in the midst of the hydrologist working on the ground water flow model and will test different flow scenarios. They will be able to tell if there are any impacts that would cause alarm during the permitting process. He said that 450gpm would be ideal from the treatment plant perspective. Mr. McCaffrey said we are hoping for 450gpm but would settle for 350gpm. Mr. Ohl said we don't want to go over 500gpm limit of Water Management Act. Mr. McCaffrey asked if 450gpm would be the maximum flow. Mr. Ohl said it would be set higher

but then we would have it running at 80-90%. Mr. McCaffrey said 450gpm running at 80% would be good.

Mr. Simpson said that Nashoba Tech should be able to build the shed structure in the next couple of weeks. He reviewed the connection to Whitney Well III during the treatment plant construction. Eventually, there will just be a valve to open to the Treatment Plant once it is ready. The shed will be a 16x10 foot structure with a double door. A smaller generator will be used during this stage. It will be a wood structure that can be laid on a gravel pad. Mr. Orcutt said that is fine and to tell him the depth and they will have it ready. Mr. Orcutt said there will be plans behind the scenes with building manager and then Nashoba Tech will go through “permit” process, cost estimates, purchasing, deliveries, with some oversight on our part to learn about the entire process. Mr. Orcutt will get a porta potty on site and they will be working there about 8am-2pm. Mr. McCaffrey asked what kind of wind will this handle. Mr. Simpson said the exterior walls are fully designed to meet building codes and handle wind. Mr. Gmeiner asked what is securing it to the ground and Mr. Simpson said the chemical tanks provide enough weight. Mr. Orcutt asked about the electric hot water heater. Mr. Simpson said we need tempered water for the eyewash station. Mr. McCaffrey asked if all controlled locally. Mr. Simpson said there will be a control panel and they could work to get it connected to SCADA. He showed a chamber in the yard with manhole cover to a 5x5 pit with flow meter and injection site. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the gravel road will be used again for the treatment plant and Mr. Patangia said they will not need to reuse that for the treatment plant. Mr. McCaffrey asked what our next milestone would be and Mr. Ohl said in mid-October we will want our permits submitted. Mr. Gmeiner asked when we will get the water test results. Mr. Simpson said there is a 4–5-week lead time so hopefully next week. It will include PFAS results.

#### Town Meeting Articles – Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Orcutt said there were no issues at the Select Board meeting and the Finance Committee meeting is tonight.

#### Dunstable Water Operations

The Dunstable Water Department asked if the Groton Water Department to run the Dunstable water operations. Their private contractor was not cost effective. They have up to \$150,000 in their budget towards this. Mr. McCaffrey said we have a lot on our plate and some of the department is not healthy at this time. Mr. Orcutt said it would be a takeover of everything, daily work as well as state reports. Mr. Orcutt thinks it is a big ask for a little gain. Mr. Gmeiner asked if they are willing to spend the \$150,000 or if they are trying to spend less. Mr. Orcutt said they probably want to spend less. Mr. Gmeiner thinks we are just gaining a feel for our three operators but if we could make some decent money, maybe we could consider it, but for small amount of money it is not worth risking our operations. Mr. Fishbone asked how long this would be and Mr. Orcutt said they are looking for a permanent fix. Mr. McCaffrey asked if they were still overwhelmed with a couple million dollars of work and Mr. Orcutt said the work is done and they are paying down the debt. Mr. Orcutt would be dealing with their Water Commissioners also.

Mr. McCaffrey said he would leave it up to the staff to decide if they want to look into it to see if it is possible and profitable.

Other Business: budget, bills, minutes, meeting schedule

Mr. McCaffrey asked who would be at Town Meeting and Mr. Ohl said he would be joined by Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Ohl. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Fishbone also plan to be there.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if they went over the site plan and stormwater earlier and Mr. Orcutt said the permits have been approved with very minor changes. Mr. Gmeiner said a few trees need to be looked at. Mr. Orcutt said Mr. Simpson didn't mention it but we will not need to put sprinklers in the temporary shed.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the press release looked ok and Mr. Fishbone made some edits. Mr. Orcutt will try to get it in the Herald this week.

The next meeting will be on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:29pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory