

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
January 14th, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, read the following statement:

“I, Tim Mitchell, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 4:08 pm. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, we are conducting this meeting on-line. To ensure public access to the deliberations of the BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST, the public may access this meeting through telephone and video conferencing. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide public comment. To do so please, “raise your hand” in the application via the Zoom meeting platform. If you are calling in and cannot use the platform, you can send your questions to staff via email at csimonelli@bgwt.org or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #JAN2021MTG.”

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Christopher Cook, City of Boston, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Gretchen Gallagher, North End Resident

1. Adoption of November 12th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Ms. Commerford, Secretary, noted the date indicated for the next meeting date was January 16th, 2021 and needs to be corrected to reflect the correct meeting date of January 14th, 2021. Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Whitney, Treasurer, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the November 12th, 2020 meeting with the above correction.

2. Trust leadership update & re-election of Trust Officers

Mr. Mitchell notified the Board that he wished to relinquish his role of co-chair while continuing to serve as a Board member. He noted that Mr. Saunders, co-chair, who will continue to serve as co-chair, has had dialogue with Mr. Whitney on assuming the vacated co-chair position. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell moved to nominate Mr. Whitney as co-chair effective immediately, and further moved that the following individuals continue to serve as Board Officers as described: Gary Saunders, co-chair, Janine Commerford, Secretary, and Robert Whitney, Treasurer. Mr. Galer seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Voted: To elect Mr. Whitney as co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, effective immediately, and to re-elect the currently sitting Board Officers to their respective positions.

3. Financial Report & Update from Treasurer & Executive Director

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed. Mr. Whitney updated the Board on his discussion with Mr. James McCann of Fidelity Investments and reviewed the potential options for management of the Trust's investment portfolio. Discussion followed. Moving forward Mr. Whitney will work with Fidelity and Mr. Simonelli and provide proposals for the Board at the March meeting. Discussion followed.

4. Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Amicus Brief Update

Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Whitney updated the Board on the Amicus Brief filing. The Appeals Court of Massachusetts accepted the brief's filing on December 24th, 2020. The defendant has until January 22nd, 2021 to file a response. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will share the Appeals Court's YouTube channel link for the oral arguments proceedings once it is made available. Discussion followed.

5. Update on Review Regarding Relationship with the City

Mr. Whitney updated the Board on his correspondence with the office of City Councilor Kenzie Bok. Discussion followed. Moving forward Mr. Whitney will work with Mr. Simonelli to set up a meeting with Councilor Bok. Discussion followed. An update will be provided at the next Trustee's meeting.

6. Insurance Coverage Update

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on his conversations and correspondence with insurance brokers and agents in regard to the Trust's insurance coverage. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will work with Mr. Whitney on obtaining quotes from different carriers for higher Directors and Officers liability limits, and for Professional Liability insurance. Discussion followed.

7. BPDA GCOD Revision Update

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the timeline for the proposed amendments to the GCOD zoning. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that Councilor Bok has offered a motion for a City Council hearing on the proposed amendments. Discussion followed.

8. Update on Operating Manual

Mr. Simonelli updated the Trustees on the Trust's operating manual. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that he has completed the manual and will provide a link to the co-chairs. Discussion followed.

9. Executive Director's Report

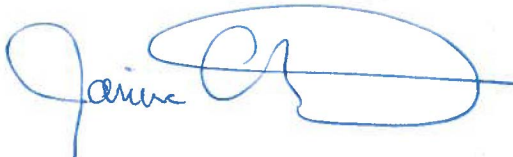
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report January 14th, 2021* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 18th, 2021 @ 4:00 pm, via Zoom Meeting platform.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 1/21/2021.

Approved 28 January 2021



J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 14th, 2021

1. **Readings** – Completed eight sets of readings in 2020. Overall levels have recovered due to an increase in last quarter of the year.
2. **Virtual Meetings and Calls**–
 - a. Zoomed with BPDA and City agencies for GCOD amendments and discussed anticipated timeline for those amendments. (11/24)
 - b. Attended the Back Bay Association Annual Meeting via Zoom. (12/2)
 - c. Participated as a panelist in City Council Zoom Webinar relating to water & sewer infrastructure. (12/14)
 - d. Zoomed with Engineering & Development teams for an update on the 40 Trinity Project in the Back Bay. (12/15)
 - e. Zoomed with co-chair's Mitchell & Saunders and Trustee Whitney to discuss Trust leadership evolution. (12/15)
 - f. Zoomed with Engineering & Development teams for an update on the 7 Beaver Place Project in Lower Beacon Hill. (12/15)
 - g. Zoomed with Environment Commissioner Carl Spector to discuss the City's FY22 budget proposal. (12/16)
 - h. Spoke with John Braught, director of operations at Old South Church, to discuss water levels and the church's on-site observation wells. (12/17)
 - i. Spoke with Dolores Boogdian, Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association (ACNA), to discuss the BGwT proposed GCOD revisions. (12/17)
 - j. Attended and testified at Zoning Board of Appeals WebEx hearings in November & December.
 - k. Communicated with residents, engineers, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to submit to meet the GCOD zoning.
3. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. In the South End pipes and laterals at Clarendon & Gray Streets will be repaired as part of Capital Improvement Projects. Two manholes at Warren & Clarendon Streets were relined and groundwater levels in the area are at all-time highs. A 12" pipe will be replaced hopefully by early 2021 under emergency repair in the Dartmouth & Montgomery Streets area. In addition, one manhole in this area has also been relined but groundwater levels have not responded. Investigations along Tremont Street, from the West Canton to Herald Street corridor are ongoing.
 - b. In the North End additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets revealed leaking joints. Repairs are slated under the Capital Improvement Project with the timeline to be determined.
 - c. In Lower Beacon Hill a leaking manhole at Brimmer and Beacon Streets was relined at the beginning of October, but groundwater levels have not responded. BWSC will go back and reinspect.
 - d. In the Back Bay, a deep sewer on Berkeley Street, between Beacon & Back Street, revealed leaks at the crown (top) of the pipe which is at approximately El. 5', where current groundwater levels have been measured. Additional inspections and repairs are scheduled.

4. **BluCloud Remote Monitoring Solution** –A new, custom device from their partner company has been connected and making successful readings in the BluCloud platform. Additional in-house testing of that singular device was successful. New units are being manufactured. Once received, those units will be deployed in some of our wells to test signal strength and operational viability.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 44.3 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets. In addition to our manual monitoring, we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.
 - a. The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years.
 - b. In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
6. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system.
 - a. Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps operating normally with no anomalies.
 - b. The DCR will be putting in a new fence and repairing the seawall which runs adjacent to Storrow Drive in the Clarendon Street to Massachusetts Avenue section.