

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in room #305 of the Boston Common Hotel & Conference Center. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provisions of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)  
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance  
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Ms. Charlotte Moffat, Boston Conservation Commission  
Mr. Josh Zakim, City Council District 8

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting**

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

**2. Financial Report**

Mr. Hemenway, Treasurer, reviewed the BGwT financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Hemenway noted that he met with the former Treasurer and Trustee Ms. Molly Sherden and Mr. Simonelli to review financial documents and procedures. Discussion followed.

3. **2014 SEP-IRA Contribution**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's annual contribution to the employee's established SEP-IRA accounts. He noted that the budgeted amount was \$4,900 and based on the 2014 W-2's a 3% contribution would require \$4,933.84. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the 3 % contribution. Mr. Galer seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To approve the annual 3% contribution to the Trust employees SEP-IRA.

4. **Annual Network Review**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the 2014 network well elevations and progress that has been made in various hot spots throughout the city. Mr. Simonelli reviewed locations in Bulfinch Triangle, Storrow Drive/Lower Beacon Hill, The Back Bay, The Fenway, The South End, Bay Village, and Ellis Neighborhood. Discussion followed.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015* for a complete list of all activities.

6. **Other Business**

Mr. Zakim, Trustee, reviewed the Back Bay project located at 45-53 Hereford St. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that the project did trigger GCOD and that the proponent met the zoning requirements for GCOD. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell noted that he has had discussions with abutting neighbors about the project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, co-chair, notified the board that Elliott Laffer has completed a second draft of his paper on the history of the Trust and that he and Mr. Mitchell will be meeting with Mr. Laffer to review the final product. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders also noted that along with Mr. Mitchell they will be hosting a Retirement party for Mr. Laffer on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Discussion followed.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 1/16/15.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janine C.", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Reviewed 1/21/15 by Janine Commerford, BGwT Secretary

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

1. **Readings/Field Engineer** –I have hired a new field engineer for the Jan-Apr 2015 semester. He started reading the well network on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
3. **MBTA** – The T is working on a long term monitoring plan agreement with their consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental to continue the monitoring of groundwater levels and the adjustments of the recharge systems in the Ellis Neighborhood area. GZA recommended that the flow rate be increased in the Appleton Street wells with additional monitoring of groundwater levels. GZA increased the flow rates in the Appleton Street Recharge wells from 5.2 gpm to 9.1 gpm on December 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 2 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. Levels are up a bit and we hope this trend continues. They will update us at the January City-State meeting.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. Manholes in the area were grouted last December and the lines in Commercial Street were walked last spring by divers with no apparent infiltration observed. They will continue to look at the lines in the area using some new robot technology and dye tests. On Blagden Street, point repairs were made at the corner of Blagden St. and Huntington Ave. No new infiltration points have been discovered. They will update us at the January City-State meeting.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the drainage station in the Prudential. No major infiltration was observed. Some dry weather flow was observed and it may be coming from the various joints located in the pipe. MassDOT will attempt to measure it using a new device. They will update us at the January City-State meeting.
6. **DCR** – The DCR is inspecting their pumps and controllers in the area along Back Street in Back Bay. One of the pump controllers that DCR uses to transfer water that drains from the Storrow Drive tunnel to the recharge system under Back Street failed and was replaced. One of their other pumps was tripped out for two weeks and they're looking into why that occurred. In addition, they will be jetting (cleaning out) pipes that carry the water to the recharge galleries in Back Street. They will update us at the January City-State meeting.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA will be notifying us of permits that are submitted for dewatering. This is helpful to us if we see a sudden drop in an area that we cannot explain. I instruct our well readers to make note of construction activities that may have potential negative effects groundwater levels. However, this additional notification will be yet another piece to the puzzle in assisting us in identifying groundwater level trends. They will update us at the January City-State meeting.
8. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Although still very low, levels in this area have rebounded significantly. A nearby underpinning project may have had an effect on levels in the nearby wells since last April. We have three dataloggers in the area and will keep these in place until the nearby underpinning work has been completed.
9. **GCOD** – Efforts are being made to streamline the GCOD process and potentially remove compliant projects that only trigger GCOD requirements because of substantial renovations from the Board of Appeals process. Elliott and I have a meeting with ISD and BWSC at the end of the month to discuss Elliott's proposed GCOD MOU. The special session for GCOD only requests that was implemented by the Board of Appeals this past summer has reduced the wait for these projects by as much as two months and has worked very well.
10. **Porous Alley** – Along with Mayor Walsh, Public Works, and the Charles River Watershed Association, I attended and spoke at the Porous Alley 543 ribbon cutting ceremony at the end of November. We partnered in this demonstration project with Public Works and the Charles River Watershed Association in an effort to use the city's alleys as a vessel to help capture precipitation to raise local groundwater levels. So far the initial results look very promising. We have been datalogging (using instruments to record a water level every 60 mins.) six wells in the area since last August and levels in these wells are up considerably. We'll continue to datalog these wells over the next year to judge the performance of the Porous Alley.

- 11. Meetings** –I attended a notice of project change meeting for the Fenway Point project. I met with our new Trustees' Charlie Moffat, Executive Secretary of the Conservation Commission and Lisa Soli of the Fenway CDC.
- 12. Website** – I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our "Newest" tab on our homepage. In addition, I've added a new tab "Recharge Projects" to the website which highlights current recharge projects in the City. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.