

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 17th, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Patriot Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston Street, Boston, MA. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Austin Blackmon, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Amelia Croteau, City of Boston, Conservation Commission

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Rory Cuddyer, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space

1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 15th, 2018 Meeting

Minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion. Mr. Galer, Trustee, abstained.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the March 15th, 2018 meeting.

2. Re-Election of Trust Officers

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the attached list of current Trust officers. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell stated that he, along with Mr. Saunders, Ms. Commerford, and Mr. Hemenway, would like to continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board in their respective positions as Board Officers. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer moved that the following individuals continue to serve as Board Officers as described: Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman, Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman, Janine Commerford, Secretary, and John Hemenway, Treasurer. Mr. Blackmon seconded the motion.

Voted: To re-elect the currently sitting Board Officers to their respective positions.

3. Financial Report & Adoption of the FY 2019 Budget

In Mr. Hemenway's absence, Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT's financial reports and stated that the financials were status quo. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY 2019 budget. He noted that the only significant difference from the preliminary FY 2019 budget distributed at the March meeting was the removal of a 2% reduction in the projected FY 2019 appropriation from the City of Boston. Discussion followed.

The Board instructed Mr. Simonelli to prepare a cost-benefit analysis for the Blue-Cloud automated well readings project listed under the reserves budget. Discussion followed.

The Board requested an update on Project LightWell (listed under "public awareness project" in the reserves budget) and instructed Mr. Simonelli to consider whether to purchase additional "LightWell" well covers in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Simonelli described his ongoing discussions with the Boston Public Library regarding placement of a demonstration module. Discussion followed.

Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, moved to adopt the FY 2019 budget; Mr. Galer, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the FY 2019 budget.

4. Approval to Award Well Installation Contract

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the attached analysis of the single bid submitted for monitoring wells. He stated that two of the three vendors from whom he solicited bids did not submit bids due to their current work load and full commitment/booking through the summer. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli recommended that the Trust's 2018 observation well installation contract be awarded to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. Discussion followed.

Mr. Blackmon moved to award the contract to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$27,910. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To award the contract to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$27,910.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 17th, 2018* for a complete list of activities.

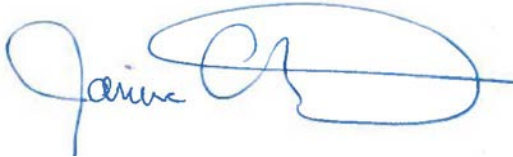
Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the progress of the ongoing video project. He noted that based on comments received from the Board, the approximately 11-minute video presented to the Board in January has been split into 3 separate videos which were emailed to Board members for review prior to the meeting. Board members provided their opinions. Discussion followed. The Board instructed Mr. Simonelli to relay the suggested edits the vendor, email the links of the final versions to the Board, and then post them on the Trust website and social media channels.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 12th, 2018 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/22/2018.

Approved 6 June 2018

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

J Commerford, Secretary

*BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST:
Re-Election of Trust Officers*

Current Trust Officers

Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman

Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman

Janine Commerford, Secretary

John Hemenway, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
May 17th, 2018

1. **Readings** – We have completed our second set of readings and are beginning a new set this week. The part-timer hired over the winter will continue through this summer.
2. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - Attended Thesis Project Presentation of John Rahill at Harvard University. The presentation focused on wood pile detection method using ground penetrating radar. (3/21)
 - I met with Dan McCormack of BluCloud Tech to review comments from our last Board meeting. (3/22)
 - I attended and presented at the 11th annual utility construction kickoff meeting. Going forward the Trust will be a part of this annual meeting to remind contractors about preserving our observation wells when excavating. (3/27)
 - I attended the scoping session and wrote a comment letter for the Kenmore Square Hotels Project. (3/28)
 - I met with Representative Aaron Michlewitz and his aide Patrick Lyons to discuss funding of the current recharge system and finding a permanent solution for the low water levels in the South End Ellis Neighborhood. (4/3)
 - I met with Michelle Laboy and Joshua Fielder to discuss the relaunching of project LightWell this spring along Boylston Street. (4/5).
 - I toured the Massachusetts Historical Society and had lunch with Catherine Allgor (President) and Peter Drummey (Librarian). (4/12)
 - I met with Demetrios Vidalis (Superintendent of Asset Management at BWSC) to discuss areas of low groundwater levels throughout our well network. (4/18)
 - I met with Councilor Flynn and representatives of the South End Forum to discuss private sewers in the South End. (4/27)
 - I met with Chris Osgood (Chief of Streets), Para Jayasinghe, Amy Cording, Katie Choe, and Zachary Wassmouth to discuss permeable pavement solutions in the public way. (5/7)
 - I attended the City Council South End Electeds Meeting. (5/7)
 - I met with Buddy Christopher (ISD Commissioner) and Kim Thai (ISD Assistant Commissioner of Plans and Zoning) to discuss the Zoning Board of Appeals process and revisions to Article 32. (5/8)
 - I met with Bill Solberg (ISD Building Inspector) and Jim Keller, contractor for 7 Saint Charles Street in the South End to review Article 32 requirements. (5/10)
 - I presented to the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay to update the group on our efforts and groundwater levels in the Back Bay. (5/16)
 - I've met weekly with Professor James Lambrechts and Vincent Umipig of Wentworth. We reviewed an outline to begin writing a follow-up to Professor Lambrechts 1986 paper on Groundwater in the Back Bay.
 - I spoke & met with residents & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to satisfy the zoning.

3. **MBTA** - Approximately 44 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Street. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. I continue to work with the MBTA, members of the City-State, residents, and the appropriate elected officials to obtain funds set aside for the ongoing recharge efforts in the South End will be made available to them through the Mass DOT FY2018-2022 Capital Investment Plan and to find a permanent solution for the South End Ellis Neighborhood.
4. **AMTRAK** – At the request of the group and arranged for by the MBTA, representatives from Amtrak were present at the last City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting to discuss the low groundwater issue in the South End Ellis Neighborhood.
5. **DCR** – I have dataloggers installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system. Levels are within their usual range and the system continues to work as designed. The DCR and their consultants are working with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that plan and will be targeted for upgrade.
6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - Repairs along Fairfield Street, in the vicinity of Beacon and Marlborough Streets in the Back Bay, have continued to have a positive effect on groundwater levels. Around a half a dozen wells in the area have hit all-time highs. We continue to datalog 3 wells in the area to verify that the repairs hold.
 - Observed damp points along a sewer line in Montgomery Street in the South End. Currently in design to be repaired.
 - BWSC continues their investigations in the North End and Stuart Street areas of the Back Bay between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets.
7. **MWRA** - Inspected approximately 4,000-ft. of the Boston Marginal Conduit (BMC), which runs along the Storrow Drive embankment. Minor signs of infiltration at four spots were discovered during the inspection. Those four spots will be repaired. Additional inspections were conducted this past July and no new leaks were observed. A final investigation will be conducted this spring with repairs also occurring at that time as well.
8. **MassDOT** - Repairs to 60' of the 30" reinforced concrete pipe, which runs parallel along the Turnpike and terminates at the prudential garage, will again be made this summer during dry weather.
9. **Website** – Traffic on the website remains steady. We have around 120 visits/day and just under 300 page views/day.