

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2009

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Patriot meeting room, which is located in the Lenox Hotel. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's office
Ms. Mary Hall, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; Paul Nelson, Resident North End; Shannon Fischer, Boston University

1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 24, 2009 Meeting

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

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, noted that his last name was misspelled and asked for the C to be removed in his last name.

Ms. Sherden, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Sherin, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the September 24, 2009 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed. Ms. Sherden noted that the reports indicate 2 months of finances.

Ms. Sherden also noted that she has been working closely with Mr. Sherin and Mr. Laffer on finding new banks who can accommodate the Trust and give the best rates for CD's. Ms. Sherden and Mr. Sherin noted that this has been an arduous process due the fact that they must explain the BGwT's structure to each bank they go through. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that the finance report indicates payment to Raphael and Raphael the accounting firm of the BGwT. Also, a payment to Geoff Pahl of Synfibers for

website maintenance and that amount reflects 4 years of invoices that Mr. Pahl sent to the BGwT.

3. 2010 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Mr. Laffer presented the 2010 proposed meeting schedule to the board. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, suggested that board members ask the groups they represent if they would like to host a BGwT board meeting in the future as an alternative meeting location. Discussion followed.

4. Posting of Meeting Agendas and Minutes

Mr. Laffer noted that all of the minutes are now up on the BGwT website and have received a fair amount of hits. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert proposed indexing the minutes. Ms. Sherden noted that the titles stand out and are easy to find. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that he will take aim at indexing the minutes and let board know how it goes by the next meeting.

5. Focus on South End with Updated Piling Cutoff Data

Mr. Simonelli presented what he had found so far in his researching of piling cutoff data in the South End. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the groundwater levels in the area and the layout of the original colonial shoreline. Discussion followed.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 19, 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

7. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring Update BGwT Meeting: November 19, 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 21, 2010 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 11/20/09.

Respectfully submitted



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 19, 2009

1. **Well Reader** – We terminated our part time well reader earlier this month. Christian will do this set of readings. We will hire a new part time person to start in January.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Group will meet again on January 28.
3. **MBTA** – The T will be installing the additional recharge well on Cazenove Street this week.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to try to find the cause of low groundwater that is centered on the area near Dartmouth and Beacon Streets and has been spreading through several blocks nearby in the Back Bay. They will be asking for permission to do sewer reconstruction in the nearby alley this month after the normal construction moratorium goes into effect. They are also continuing to inject dye as part of looking for the cause of low groundwater in the area near the intersection of Richmond and Commercial Streets in the North End.
5. **MWRA** – MWRA's construction work on their major project in East Boston remains on schedule. The pipe under Porter Street will be discontinued and plugged in 2010. MWRA has conducted additional television inspection of their pipe under Breman Street near the low point at Porter Street, but they have found no additional leaks.
6. **GCOD** – The number of GCOD cases before the Board of Appeals seems to be increasing. Compliance with the zoning continues to be excellent.
7. **Website** – Traffic to the website remains high, as it has been all Fall. We have posted all minutes from meetings going back to when I joined the Trust in 2004. We also, for the first time, posted the agenda of the trustees' meeting in advance.
8. **Legislation** – The bill related to groundwater issues introduced by Rep. Marty Walz will have a committee hearing on Dec. 1. I will testify on behalf of the Trust. My prepared statement will be posted on our website after the hearing.
9. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions on upcoming projects at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Mass Mental Health Center in the Longwood Medical Area and at 319 A Street Rear in Fort Point. I will be meeting with Councilor at Large John Connolly tomorrow to update him on groundwater issues.
10. **Comment Letter** – I filed comments on the 319 A Street Rear project. They are posted on our website.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S
WELL MONITORING UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: November 19, 2009**

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.

There are currently 714 wells in the West network. Wells were read from Sep. 22 – Oct. 20, 2009. Of the 712 wells read:

- 59 wells @ elevation >9'
- 106 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 301 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 194 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 26 wells @ elevation <3'
- 2 wells @ Dry
- 24 wells @ no reading
- 69 Recharge Locations

We have read 85 wells in the East network (East Boston Area). Wells were read in East Boston on Sep. 18 & 19, 2009. Of the 85 wells read:

- 23 wells @ elevation >9'
- 24 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 11 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 9 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 7 wells @ elevation <3'
- 10 wells @ Dry
- 1 wells @ no reading

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network and started a new set of readings on Monday November 9, 2009.

I have taken over the readings for this period due the termination of our co-op, Xavier D'Ambrosio. I relieved Mr.

D'Ambrosio of his duties on Friday November 6, 2009 due to his lack of reliability in completing the well readings.

LEVELOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 1 on and around Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove Street
 - 5 on Beacon St., in the Berkeley to Clarendon St. block
- 12 dataloggers have also been installed in the Back Bay, South End, and the Fenway
- I continue to be in contact with Terrence McCarthy of the MBTA and hope to gain access to the OW's adjacent to the alignment on their tracks with a couple of their flagmen.

CONTOURS

- We continue to generate contours for all areas of our well network. Elliott and I have reviewed them with our technical committee.
- We will continue to receive the contours from BWSC and will be sending them our contours for comparison.

ISD RESEARCH

- We continue to look for building permits and any underpinned buildings.
- I have completed all of Back Bay, Lower Beacon Hill, Chinatown/Leather District, and Bulfinch Triangle. I continue working on the South End.