

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 21st, 2013

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Dome 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, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Ms. Stephanie Krueel, Executive Secretary Boston Conservation Commission
Mr. Brian Swett, Chief of Environment & Energy
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Re-charge Coordinator; Mr. Jacob Glickel; Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy

1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 19th, 2013 Meeting

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

Ms. Commerford, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes Mr. Galer, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the September 19th, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

In lieu of Ms. Sherden, Trustee, (absent) Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT Balance Sheet Detail. Mr. Laffer noted that the Trust has received its annual funding from the city. Mr. Laffer also reviewed the Fidelity investment account detail. Discussion followed.

3. Mayoral Transition

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, noted that with a new Mayor in office it's important that the Trust ensure that funding and political support is maintained. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, noted that Mr. Mitchell, Co-chair, and Mr. Laffer will discuss. Discussion followed.

4. 2014 Meeting Dates

Mr. Laffer reviewed the meeting dates for the 2014 Board meetings. Discussion followed.

5. Porous Alley Project Update

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Porous Alley project contact between the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. He noted that Public Alley 543 in the South End was selected for this project. Mr. Laffer noted that the project will commence in the spring 2014 and that the Trust has installed two wells as part of this project. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached Executive Director's Report: November 21st, 2013 for additional details.

6. MBTA Plans for Ellis Neighborhood

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the T's long-term action plan for raising and maintaining the groundwater levels in the Ellis Neighborhood area. Mr. Laffer noted that the T remains committed to the project and that the new recharge wells will be installed and in operation by late November/early December of 2013. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached Executive Director's Report: November 21st, 2013 for additional details.

7. Hot Spots Review

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the progress that has been made in various hot spots throughout the city from 2004, 2007, to present. Mr. Simonelli reviewed locations in Storrow Drive/Lower Beacon Hill, The Back Bay, The Fenway, The South End, Bay Village, The North End, and East Boston. Discussion followed.

8. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 21st, 2013* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

9. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update

BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli reviewed his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGwT Meeting: November 21st, 2013* for a complete list of all activities.

10. Other Business

Mr. Saunders noted that Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, is resigning from the board effective immediately. Mr. Saunders read Mr. Gilbert's letter of resignation to the board. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders expressed his appreciation and thanked Mr. Gilbert for all his years of service on the Trust's board.

Refer to the attached *Letter of Resignation* from Mr. Gilbert.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 16th, 2014 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.
Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 11/22/13.

2014 TRUSTEES' MEETING SCHEDULE

January 16

March 20

May 15

July 17

September 18

November 20

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 21, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
2. **MBTA** – The T went in front of the Public Improvement Commission this morning for final approval of their plans for the installation of three additional groundwater recharge wells in the South End east of Back Bay Station. If the weather holds, they plan to install the wells early in December.
3. **BWSC** – The recent repairs at Blagdon Street do not appear to have solved low groundwater levels in that area; BWSC will be conducting additional investigative work to determine if the repairs have held and what other potential causes for the problem might be. In the North End, they have identified two leaking manholes on Commercial that might be causing low groundwater levels and plan to repair them soon.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT sealed nine additional leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike. They are now focusing on the area between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets, will then move further to the west, although repairs there are complicated by the smaller diameter of the pipe in that area.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We are working with ISD to try to streamline the system, without changing the zoning, for projects that need zoning approval only for GCOD and with no below grade construction or building extension.
6. **Porous Alley** – Plans are moving ahead for installation of a porous surface in Public Alley 543 in the South End. We have installed two new observation wells in the alley just beyond either end of what will be the porous area and begun data logging in these and four other nearby existing wells. This will give us an excellent basis on which to understand the impact of the porous surface on groundwater levels compared to the existing impervious surface, both adjacent to the surface and in areas as much as a block away. The project, scheduled for installation next Spring, is funded by a grant from DEP with matching contributions from the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and the Trust.
7. **ABX Conference** – On November 19, I was on a panel with speakers from Boston Architectural College, Halvorson Design Partnership, and Judith Nitsch Associates to discuss the newly installed BAC Green Alley project.
8. **BSCES Geo Institute Technical Group** – I spoke about the efforts to raise groundwater levels at the Boston Society of Civil Engineers educational session on November 9.
9. **Website** – We have had very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
10. **Meetings** – Along with our trustee Stephanie Krueel, I met with the Museum of Science to discuss their plans for a major permanent exhibit focusing on the Charles River. As part of that, they plan to tell the story of the transformation that land making caused to the Charles River Basin and to discuss the critical role that maintenance of adequate groundwater levels plays in preserving the many historic structures in the area. The focus is on the intersection of the natural world and technology, and our story fits in very well. I testified before the Zoning Commission about groundwater issues associated with the 80 East Berkeley Street and Copley Place addition projects. I will be attending the Boston High Water Seminar tomorrow.
11. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the 345 Harrison Ave project. As always, all comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.

TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

BGwT Meeting: November 21ST, 2013

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

WELL MONITORING

I completed the seventh and final set of readings for the year on November 14th. I'll begin a new set of readings the first week in January, 2014.

MEETINGS

- Met with proponents for the 600 Harrison Avenue project
- Met with David Mazzei of GZA to incorporate two wells in the Bulfinch Triangle/West End Area

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Met with members of the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to discuss the best location for a proposed Porous Alley Project. Public Alley No. 543 in South End was selected. As part of this project the Trust has installed two wells in this alley during this set of well installations. The Trust has also placed dataloggers in these wells and four additional wells surrounding the alley to document water levels pre and post porous pavement installation.
- Attended public meeting at Tent City for the proposed Porous Alley Project.
- Met with the consultant for the Boston Architectural College (BAC) who updated the BGwT on the performance of the BAC's green alley.
- Spoke with residents and developers about the installation of different types of recharge systems that can be installed.
- Attended the scoping session for the Landmark Center project with Elliott
- Participated in the scoping session for the 345 Harrison Avenue project. I substituted for Elliott who had a conflicting engagement at the same time.
 - I wrote the comment letter for this project. I had been previously drafting letters for projects. I reviewed this with Elliott and made a minor change. The letter has been submitted to the BRA and (like all comment letters) is now posted on our site.
 - I'll continue to write more comment letters as projects come forth.

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (4)

- 1 at the corner of Berkeley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.

Blagden Street (3)

- 2 from the Exeter – Dartmouth St.
- 1 in front of the Copley Square Hotel

North End: Commercial Street (3)

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial St.
- 1 on Commercial St. in front of 145 Commercial St.
- 1 on Atlantic Ave., in front of 103 Atlantic Ave.

Alignment Loggers (3 Uploaded on a Monthly basis)

- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Arlington St. Bridge
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge
- 1 Adjacent to the alignment, at the rear of 95 Berkeley St.

Southwest Corridor: Alley 543, West Canton, & Holyoke Street (6)

- 2 in Alley 543
- 1 in front of 243 West Canton Street
- 1 in front of 38 Holyoke Street
- 1 in front of 24 Holyoke Street
- 1 @ at the corner of Holyoke Street and Columbus Avenue

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November 20, 2013

Thomas Menino, Mayor
Boston City Hall
Boston, Mass. 02201

Re: Boston Groundwater Trust

Dear Sir:

After forty years of service as a trustee on the Boston Groundwater Trust, I hereby tender my resignation effective at the close of tomorrow's meeting of the Trust. I have been honored by your appointing me to this board, but I feel it is time for me to move on. I am now serving on boards and committees of Friends of the East Boston Greenway, East Boston Harborside Community Center School Council, The Massachusetts Bar Association Labor and Employment Section, and a taskforce studying graduation requirements for Brookline High School.

I have consulted with Eric Tingdahl, the president of the Fenway Community Development Corporation, which I have represented throughout. I am sure the Fenway CDC will nominate a worthy candidate for your appointment.

The Trust does important work and has good people working on it, and I am sure it will continue for many more years. Thank you for your support as a City Counselor long ago, and as Mayor in all your years.

Very truly yours,



Galen Gilbert

Cc: Eric Tingdahl, President, Fenway CDC
Tim Mitchell & Gary Saunders, Co-Chairs, BGwT

