

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 14th, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Patriot meeting room at the Lenox Hotel located at 61 Exeter 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. Robert Whitney, co-chair, read the following statement:

"I, Robert Whitney, 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 GROUND-WATER 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 csimonielli@bgwt.org or via X (formerly Twitter) by tagging the X handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #SEP23MTG."

The following trustees were present at the Lenox Hotel:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Nick Pittman, Fenway Community Development Corporation

The following trustees were present virtually:

Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ms. Sharon Durkan, City Councilor District 8 (left meeting at 5:15 pm)
Ms. Katherine Eshel, Chief of Staff, Environment, Energy and Open Space, City of Boston

Also present at the Lenox Hotel was:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

Also present virtually was:

Ms. Genna Kane, PhD Candidate at BU for Urban History & Historic Preservation

1. New Trustees

Mr. Simonelli introduced two new Trustees: Sharon Durkan, Boston City Councilor - District 8, who replaced Councilor Ed Flynn, and Nick Pittman, Real Estate Senior Project Manager, Fenway Community & Development Corporation, who replaced Leah Camhi. Discussion followed.

2. Adoption of July 13th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the Board meeting minutes for July 13th, 2023.

3. Financial Report

Mr. Whitney, co-chair, and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Mr. Simonelli noted that he has signed the annual contract with the City of Boston, and the Trust has received its FY24 funding from the City. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli also noted that bonds will need to be purchased and that he will work with Mr. Whitney, Treasurer, to purchase bonds. Discussion followed.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Director Review and Contract

Mr. Whitney moved that the Board enter executive session. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion.

Voted: To enter executive session.

Mr. Simonelli exited the meeting room at approximately 4:17pm and the Board entered executive session.

Ms. Commerford stated that the Board would reconvene in open session after the executive session was completed.

Mr. Simonelli returned to the meeting room at approximately 4:42pm and the Board reconvened in open session.

5. Remote Well Reading Device Update

Mr. Simonelli stated that all 25 additional units purchased from BluCloud have been installed throughout the city. Discussion followed. Topics covered included:

- Images of an installed unit.
- The addition of a label on each unit that identifies the Trust as owner, with contact information.
- Cast iron roadway box covers have been replaced with aluminum covers to improve signal reception.
- Distribution of the 25 units throughout the different neighborhoods of the City of Boston.
- Alerts if a device is disturbed or the levels changes more the 1'.
- Ability to link to the BluCloud platform though the current observation well and building foundation information center on the Trust website.

- Security of the devices and roadway box covers.
- Battery life expectancy of reading unit and lifespan of datalogger.

6. **Current Website Design**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust website through the years. He displayed images of previous versions as well as of the current version (last updated in 2017.) Discussion followed. The Board will revisit at the next meeting after the Trustees have had a chance to review the proposed changes to the website and have provided their comments to Mr. Simonelli.

7. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report September 14th, 2023*, for a complete list of activities. Topics covered included:

- Virtual meeting with newly-appointed Boston Water & Sewer Commissioner Armando Goncalves.
- A City Council hearing on stormwater and the Trust's participation at that hearing.
- A City Council hearing to provide an update to both City and State officials on the progress of the City-State Groundwater Working Group.
- The next meeting of the Trust Technical Advisory Committee.
- Working with the Inspectional Services Department to conduct site visits at properties where sump pumps have been identified.
- Recent flooding events and the impacts on basements in the Back Bay.

8. **Other Business**

Mr. Simonelli noted the City's release of a document which reviews the zoning code and proposes a reform of the zoning code. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will email the Trustees a copy of the report along with a reminder to review the Trust website for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Simonelli noted that he will follow-up with the City Clerk regarding new Trustee appointments and reappointments of existing Trustees.

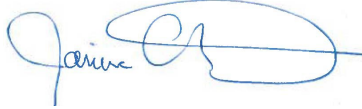
Mr. Whitney moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm

NEXT MEETING: November 16th, 2023 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel with a virtual attendance option.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 9/25/2023.

Approved 10 November 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Commerford". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a horizontal line extending across the middle of the name.

J Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 14th, 2023

1. **Readings** – Hired a new field Engineer and started our 5th set of readings for 2023.
2. **Meetings and Calls – (Virtual Via Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams platforms)**
 - a. Virtually met with the City's Green Infrastructure (GI) Working Groups on the following dates:
 - i. GI Coordination/Maintenance: 7/14, 7/28, 8/1, & 9/8
 - ii. GI Policy: 7/21, 8/4, 8/18
 - iii. GI Working Group: 8/10
 - b. Virtually attended the Boston Water & Sewer Commission meeting. (7/26)
 - c. Met with John Braught, Director of operations at Old South Church, to review interior observation wells. (8/1)
 - d. Met with project team managing the Copley Square renovation to review well locations in and around the areas of work. (8/7)
 - e. Virtually met with Armindo Goncalves, Commissioner at Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC), to review our relationship with BWSC on groundwater. (8/14)
 - f. Virtually attended public meeting for the Parcel 12-C project in Chinatown. (8/21)
 - g. Virtually met with Edward Coburn, Assistant Commissioner & General Counsel, and Samantha Courage, Zoning Board of Appeal, of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) to discuss a potential method for the Trust to obtain notifications for permit applications related to foundation investigations or work. (8/25)
 - h. Virtually met with Daniel McCormack and Justin Comeau of BluCloud to review the 25-unit deployment and their new database platform. (8/30)
 - i. Met with Ralph Kurpeski, ISD Building Inspector Ward 5B, at 88 Waltham Street in the South End to review existing sump pump unit. (9/1)
 - j. Conducted site visit at 237-239 Beacon Street to examine sump pump units for both buildings. (9/7)
 - k. Virtually testified, at the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in July & August.
 - l. Communicated with residents, engineers, attorneys, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to submit to meet the GCOD zoning.
3. **City & State Agency Updates**- All agencies will provide updates on their efforts to address groundwater at the next City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting in October.
4. **BluCloud Automated Readers Update**- Units were installed in East Boston, North End, Leather District, Lower Beacon Hill, Back Bay, South End, and Fenway in August.