

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 17th, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage room of the Lenox Hotel. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at Boston City Hall in accordance with provisions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 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. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Ms. Charlotte Moffat, Boston Conservation Commission
Ms. Lisa Soli, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Mohona Siddique, Neighborhood Liaison at the Office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim; Ms. Lauren Zingarelli, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Office of Environment, Energy, and Open Space; Alex Buller, Project Manager/Geophysicist, Hager GeoScience Inc.

1. Adoption of the minutes of the July 16th, 2015 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes; Ms. Soli, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the July 16th, 2015 meeting.

2. Financial Report

In Mr. Hemenway's absence, Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT's financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that he is working with the City on finalizing the contract details for FY 16 funding and that the Trust usually receives the funds in late September/early October. Discussion followed.

3. Update on 44 Burbank Street Project

Mr. Simonelli noted that groundwater levels in the area of 44 Burbank Street in the Fenway are slowly recovering after dewatering of on-site excavations temporarily lowered the groundwater table. The installation of the project's foundation took a bit longer than expected. The project's geotechnical engineer will continue to monitor 19 wells in the area (as designated by the Trust) on a weekly basis for a period of one month after dewatering has ceased. Discussion followed.

4. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Feasibility Proposal

Mr. Simonelli discussed the ground penetrating radar feasibility proposal submitted by Hager Geoscience, Inc. (HGI). The goal of the project is to determine whether ground penetrating radar, a non-invasive technology, can be used to locate the elevation of the tops of wood piles beneath row houses and other pile-supported buildings in Boston. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli introduced Alex Buller, Project Manager/Geophysicist from Hager GeoScience Inc. and asked him to present the company's proposal. Major points of the presentation and the following discussion include:

- The hardware and electronics of the instruments used have not changed much over the past 20 years. However, the collection, analysis and interpretation of data captured by the GPR antenna has improved;
- The best results are obtained when the antenna is deployed along a grid over a smooth surface directly above the elements of interest (in this case, tops of wood piles);
- The greater the depth of the element of interest, the less reliable the data;
- Because the piles that support most row houses in Boston are typically located 10 to 15 feet below ground level, beneath the foundation blocks that support the outer (and often party) walls of the building, deploying the antenna directly above the piles is not possible;
- However, GPR might be capable of identifying the location of the top of row house foundation blocks if the antenna could be deployed at an angle, or where foundation blocks are not located directly beneath walls (such as in larger buildings.)
- To demonstrate proof of concept, ideally HGI would start with some buildings where existing foundation conditions have been confirmed;
- HGI is willing to come down on the initial tier 1 cost of their proposal;

- HGI will coordinate with Mr. Simonelli on cost and Mr. Simonelli will provide HGI with additional information on buildings where existing foundation conditions have been confirmed;
- Mr. Simonelli and Trustee Shilland will update the technical advisory committee at their next meeting in October and further discuss the possibility of the technology being applied.

5. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: September 17th, 2015* for a complete list of activities.

6. Other Business

In preparation for Mr. Simonelli's annual review Mr. Saunders, co-chair, requested that Board members email comments to him and co-chair Mitchell on Mr. Simonelli's performance.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 19th, 2015 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 9/18/15.



Approved by J. Commerford, Secretary, BGwT