

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 5th, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Heritage 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 4:04 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ms. Amelia Croteau, City of Boston, Conservation Commission
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Rory Cuddyer, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space; Mr. Patrick Lyons, Legislative Aide for Representative Aaron Michlewitz; Mr. Steven Keppel, Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger

1. Insurance Quote Review and Discussion

Mr. Simonelli stated that, pursuant to the vote taken at the July 15, 2019 Board Meeting, he purchased Directors & Officers Insurance from Chubb Specialty Insurance. He reviewed the quotes obtained for General Liability (GL) and Professional Liability (PL) insurance coverage. Discussion followed. Mr. Robert Whitney, Trustee, requested that Mr. Simonelli go back to the broker for the CNA GL policy and request that the locations of Trust observation wells be referenced on the policy. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, co-chair, moved to purchase General Liability Insurance from CNA Insurance Company. Ms. Croteau, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To purchase General Liability Insurance from CNA Insurance Company.

2. Massachusetts Paid Family & Medical Leave Benefits Program

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Massachusetts Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) Benefits Program scheduled to go into effect on October 1st, 2019. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Boston Groundwater Trust will, along with all other employers in Massachusetts, be required to deduct payroll contributions from a covered individual's wages or other earnings to fund PFML benefits but may elect to pay all or some of the covered individuals' share itself. Larger employers will be required to make additional contributions, but as a small employer (one with fewer than 25 employees), the Trust will not be required to make such additional contributions. The payroll services company used by the Trust (ADP) will deduct the required amounts each pay period and make the payments to the Massachusetts Department of Family and Medical Leave. The Board instructed Mr. Simonelli to determine whether the dollar amount of PFML contribution for specific employees can be changed mid-year to coincide with the Trust's fiscal year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved that the Trust pick up the entire contribution of employee FY2019-20 PFML benefits and re-evaluate contribution in 2020 during the budget discussions for next fiscal year. Mr. Whitney, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To pick up the entire contribution of employee 2019-20 PFML benefits and re-evaluate future possible contributions during the budget discussions for 2020-21.

3. Adoption of July 15th, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Tim Mitchell, co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the July 15th, 2019 meeting.

4. Financial Report

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financial reports. Discussion followed. He noted that the Trust's FY20 annual operating fund contract with the City of Boston's Environment Department has been approved by the City. Discussion followed.

5. Executive Director's Report

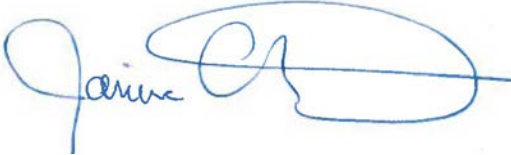
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report September 5th, 2019* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November, 2019 Date and Time TBD

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 9/6/2019.

Approved 7 November, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Commerford". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 5th, 2019

1. **Readings** – Started our sixth set of readings of the year.
2. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - a. Attended webinar on Property Value in an Era of Climate Change. (7/18)
 - b. Met with members of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review all locations of low groundwater levels throughout our monitoring area. (7/24)
 - c. Met with members of the City's Climate Action team to discuss their coastal resilience planning process for Downtown Boston. (7/31)
 - d. Along with representatives from Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) and Inspectional Services Department (ISD) I conducted Back Bay site visits of 426 Stuart Street and 154 Berkeley Street (8/6) and 370-382 Stuart Street, 200 Berkeley Street, and 197 Clarendon Street (8/8).
 - e. Attended scoping session for the South End 566 Columbus Avenue project. (8/13)
 - f. Spoke & met with residents, engineer, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to meet the zoning.
3. **BluCloud** – Our automated readings project has hit a bit of a technical snag. A new Board is being designed to fix a signal strength issue that has popped up. The new Boards will be deployed in one well early next week and tested for a period of two weeks. If all goes well these Boards will be deployed in all 5 wells we have selected to install these automated units.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 42.1 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.
 - a. The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years and have assured me that funding will be provided beyond the 10 years if this current solution is still in place.
 - b. In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
5. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system remain in their usual range. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that redesign and is targeted for upgrade.
6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. In the South End areas of infiltration were discovered. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and plan for repairs.
 - b. In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, infiltration has been discovered at two manholes. BWSC is inspecting additional infrastructure and the manholes are scheduled to be repaired soon.
 - c. Stuart Street area of the Back Bay between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets were televised and indicated voids and infiltration. One sewer was repaired in mid-June but no change has been observed in the groundwater levels. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and repairs of pipes and manholes in this area.
 - d. On Blagden Street in the Back Bay infiltration was observed in infrastructure. BWSC has filed change work order to current construction contract for point repairs of lines and grouting of laterals.
 - e. In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to has filed change work order to current construction contract to push up the repair.
7. **MWRA** –Along with BWSC, infrastructure was investigated along Maverick Street, between Frankfort and Gove streets and at the intersection of Breman and Porter streets in East Boston.
8. **MassDOT** - Dry weather inspections of the Pru Tunnel sub-surface stormwater drainage system, which runs parallel along the Turnpike & terminates at the prudential garage, indicated infiltration. Remainder of pipe cleared and inspected. Repairs scheduled for this Fall.
9. **Website** – Traffic on the website remains steady. We continue to average 100 visits/day and around 250 page views/day.
10. **Vacation** – I'll be away from the office from September 24th through October 11th.