

Executive Director's Report

Oct. 27, 2004

Annual Report – We will turn in annual report to the City by Friday. We are working with the accountants to make sure that the financial data as presented is clear and accurate. This will set a template for future reports.

Parallel Organization – We have engaged Bruce Wickersham of Piper Rudnick as our pro bono attorney as we explore the best way to structure this. We are staying in contact with the City to make sure that what we do does not interfere with our current relationship in any way.

Office – Our new office is open at 234 Clarendon St. Phone lines, email, and computer are up and running. We have held several small meetings there. The space is working out very well.

Budgeting – We are beginning the process of establishing a budget tracking system that will allow us to run multiple open contracts at once without losing control.

Web Site – The web site has been somewhat cleaned up. We are working with our host to improve billing arrangements for both hosting and development work.

Publicity – The Trust was featured in a very positive column by Tom Keane in the Herald. I was interviewed on BNN-TV. I did an interview with The Sampan in Chinatown that will run shortly.

BWSC – The Commission shared with us, subject to an agreement not to remove them from our offices, the calculated contour maps that they develop from our well readings. These can be very helpful in graphically pointing us toward suspected “hot spots”. Based on our data, the BWSC located a “hot spot” at the corner of Dartmouth and Beacon Streets. They have determined it is caused by a leaking deep sewer and will be repairing it shortly. They have also determined that their sewer under Back Street needs to be repaired. This major project will be designed in 2005 and built the following year. In the meantime, they have pledged to repair any leaks causing groundwater drawdown.

DCR – We will be jointly reading both our wells and theirs in November. This was to happen this month, but was thrown off by some communications difficulties.

BRA – I will be sitting down with Rick Shaklik on Friday to discuss where they are in developing zoning that could help to address the groundwater depletion problem. I am already participating in scoping sessions for project review under Article 80.

DPW – I will be sitting down with Para Jayasinghe on Nov. 5 to bring him up to date on what has been happening with the Trust. Para has been the first to raise groundwater

issues at the BRA scoping sessions that I have attended and has made it clear that groundwater depletion must be prevented.

Project Comments – Filed formal comments on groundwater issues regarding the The Clarendon project planned for the Back Bay post office site and adjacent parking lot and for the Forsyth Institute expansion project in the Fenway.

BRA Scoping Sessions – Participated in scoping sessions for the Copley Residences project at 441 Stuart Street and the Hamilton Gateway project in the South End.

MEPA Scoping Session – Participated in the MEPA scoping session on the Forsyth Institute expansion project.

BRA Article 80 Public Meeting – Attended the public meeting on the Copley Residences project.

City Councilors Meeting – Gary Saunders, Tim Mitchell, and I will meet with the members of the City Council tomorrow morning at a session hosted by Councilors Mike Ross and Jim Kelly. We will have a short presentation on the Trust's history, functions, and plans, take questions, and hopefully help some councilors whose constituents have been less vocal about groundwater depletion that it is important to them as well.

Technical Advisory Committee – Our technical advisory committee will be meeting Friday at the BGwT office. We will be talking about locations for future wells, how to proceed once the grid of wells is installed, and looking at some ideas that might address potential solutions to wood piling deterioration problems.