

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 11th, 2017

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Copley Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston Street. 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 4:02 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Andre Jones, Housing Director of the Fenway Community Development Corporation; Mr. John Rahill, Rising Senior from Harvard University

1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 28th, 2017 Meeting

Minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the March 28th, 2017 meeting.

2. Re-Election of Trust Officers

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the attached list of current Trust officers. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell stated that he, along with Mr. Saunders, Ms. Commerford, and Mr. Hemenway, would like to continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board in their respective positions as Board Officers. Discussion followed.

Mr. Blackmon moved that the following individuals continue to serve as Board Officers as described: Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman, Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman, Janine Commerford, Secretary, and John Hemenway, Treasurer. Mr. Shilland seconded the motion.

Voted: To re-elect the currently sitting Board Officers to their respective positions.

3. Financial Report

Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, reviewed the BGwT's financial reports. Discussion followed. He noted that the Trust has received its annual contribution of \$25K from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Discussion followed.

4. Adoption of the FY 2018 Budget

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY 2018 budget. He noted that the only significant differences from the preliminary FY 2017 budget distributed at the March meeting was a minor increase in rent and electric expenses and a 2% reduction in the projected FY 2018 appropriation from the City of Boston. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the FY 2018 budget; Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the FY 2018 budget.

5. Review of Trust Website and Potential New Layout

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the layout of the existing website and his draft of a new layout. He noted that majority of the feedback he receives from visitors is very positive but the site is largely text-based and may benefit from use of more graphics. Trustees offered their ideas and suggestions on the new layout. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will continue revising the new layout, follow-up on Trustee comments, and report back to the Trustees. NOTE: Trustee Hemenway exited the meeting at approximately 4:50 pm.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 11th, 2017* for a complete list of activities.

7. Other Business

- Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, updated the Board on a conversation he had with Inspectional Services Department counsel Matthew Fitzgerald in regards to notification to abutters. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli stated that he had spoken with Mr. Fitzgerald and that Mr. Fitzgerald had stated that he was working with Commissioner Christopher on a mechanism for notification. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 13th, 2017 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/15/2017.

Approved 25 May 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Commerford", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

J Commerford, Secretary

*BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST:
Re-Election of Trust Officers*

Current Trust Officers

Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman

Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman

Janine Commerford, Secretary

John Hemenway, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
May 11th, 2017

1. **Readings** – We are in the middle of our third set of readings for 2017. So far many of the wells are up from the last reading set.
2. **Project LightWell** – We plan on installing our first 10 interactive well covers along Beacon Street later this month. I am working with team LightWell and City departments on a possible press event.
3. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - a. I attended the City's utility construction kickoff meeting at the Historic Great Hall in Faneuil Hall (3/31).
 - b. I walked Boylston Street with Sue Prindle from Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay and Para Jayasinghe from Public Works to discuss sidewalk repaving plans (4/3).
 - c. I met with proponents for 205-207 Newbury Street project to discuss GCOD requirements (4/6).
 - d. I filed a comment letter on the Draft Project Impact Report the Back Bay South End Gateway Project (4/17).
 - e. I met with Trustee Commerford to review her ideas and recommendations for the organization (4/19).
 - f. I attended the annual meeting of the Back Bay Association (5/1).
 - g. I met with Carl LeBell of 455 Massachusetts Avenue to discuss groundwater issues and high groundwater levels at the property (5/2).
 - h. I attended an abutters meeting for Public Alley 430 sewer repairs (5/3).
 - i. Along with Michelle Laboy and Joshua Fielder I attended the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Architecture Committee meeting to present project LightWell. The committee voted to endorse our project (5/3).
 - j. I met with Kevin Wright of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. to review the GCOD requirements for Fenway Center Phase 1 Project (5/5).
 - k. I updated the Department of Public Works on the efforts of the Trust (5/8).
 - l. I met with Jean Lespinasse, property manager for 11 East Newton Street to discuss groundwater issues and high groundwater levels at the property (5/9).
 - m. I spoke & met with residents & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to satisfy the zoning.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 40 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the area. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. The MBTA has renewed their maintenance contract with their Engineer for 3 years. Going forward the recharge systems will be inspected and adjusted (as needed) on a monthly basis.
5. **DCR** – I have dataloggers installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system. Levels are within their usual range and the system is working as designed. The DCR and their consultants are working with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. They hope to have the results of this study by June. Recharge will be part of that plan and will be targeted for possible upgrade.
6. **BWSC** – An update of the following:
 - a. Alley No. 430 sewer repairs are underway. Repairs are expected take 6-8 weeks. Recharge will be installed as part of the repairs.
 - b. The contract for repairs of the sewer along Beacon & Fairfield Street will be awarded this month. Approximately 430' of the 72"x78" pipe will be re-lined this summer and is expected to be completed before the end of the 2017 construction season.
 - c. Minor signs of infiltration were discovered along Clarendon, Gray, & Appleton Streets. In addition points of infiltration were discovered in 4-5 privately owned sewer laterals. BWSC is working on a repair plan.
 - d. TV inspection at the corner of Richmond and Commercial revealed no infiltration. BWSC plans to bypass the flow in the pipe to inspect the bottom of the pipe.

- e. Completed inspections of lines in the Stuart Street area between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets and are reviewing the tapes. BWSC will investigate lines in Stanhope Street and will check to see if lines are planned for inspections for new Hancock building at 380 Stuart Street.
- 7. **MWRA** - Inspected the Boston Marginal Conduit (BMC) (approx. 4,000ft.). Minor signs of infiltration at four spots were discovered during the inspection. Those four spots will be repaired. Additional inspections will be conducted this spring before repairs are made.
- 8. **MassDOT** - Repairs were unsuccessful due to obstructions at the beginning of April in the Pru tunnel. A revised scope of work has been requested.
- 9. **Website** - I have continued to inventory our website and work on a redesign. The most recent items are posted under the "*Latest News*" tab on our homepage. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.