

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 9th, 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 4:08 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Rory Cuddyer, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space; Ms. Maggie Owens, City of Boston, Parks and Recreation

1. Adoption of March 14th, 2019 Board Meeting & Executive Session Minutes

Board Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. John Hemenway, Treasurer, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Gary Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion. Greg Galer, Trustee, abstained from voting.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes of the March 14th, 2019 meeting.

2. Financial Reports & Review of FY 2020 Budget Proposal

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT's financial reports and noted that the only out-of-the-ordinary expense was payment to Blu Cloud for 4 automated groundwater level reading devices for the Board-approved automated readings demonstration project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY 2020 budget. He noted that based on discussions with Mr. Rory Cuddyer the budget includes a level-funding appropriation from the City of Boston. Discussion followed.

Ms. Janine Commerford, Secretary, moved to adopt the FY 2020 budget; Mr. John Hemenway, Treasurer, seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the FY 2020 budget.

3. Project LightWell Update

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the status of the LightWell project. The current schedule is to deploy the 10 units early this summer, along Tremont Street in the South End. In addition, space at the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library will be reserved to display a prototype of a LightWell unit along with an interactive map which will display historical groundwater levels over time. Discussion followed.

4. Future Meetings and Topics

Mr. Simonelli reviewed a list of potential future meeting topics. Discussion followed. The Trustees suggested having presentations on wood preservation methods for newly driven wood piles, directional drilling techniques that might be used to correct the low groundwater levels in the South End, potential effect of sea level rise on wood piles, and to survey the Trust's Technical Advisory Committee for topics. Discussion followed.

5. Executive Director's Report

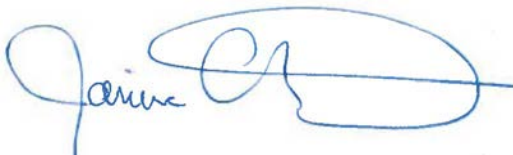
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 9th, 2019* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 27th, 2019 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/15/2019.

Approved 23 May 2019



J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 9th, 2019

1. **Readings** – Started our third set of readings of the year.
2. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - a. Wrote a comment letter for the Massachusetts General Hospital Clinical Building Project in Beacon Hill. (3/21)
 - b. Attended scoping session (3/22) and wrote a comment letter (4/8) for the Taj Hotel renovations.
 - c. Spoke at the 12th annual utility construction kickoff meeting to remind contractors about preserving our observation wells throughout construction. (3/27)
 - d. Updated the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Condominium Management Group on our efforts. (3/29)
 - e. Along with the MBTA I helped organize a meeting of the City-State Groundwater Working Group Technical Advisory Committee. (4/1)
 - f. Met with Irene McSweeney and Paul Canavan, of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review all areas of low groundwater levels throughout our monitoring area. (4/8)
 - g. Attended a ceremony for the retirement of Anthony Pisani from the Zoning Board of Appeals. (4/10)
 - h. Attended the City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting. (4/18)
 - i. Attended Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Smart Utilities Bootcamp. (4/25)
 - j. Presented to the BWSC construction and operation divisions. (4/28)
 - k. Attended the Boston Preservation Month 2019 kickoff celebration. (5/1)
 - l. 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. **MBTA** - Approximately 43 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. I've been assured that funding will be provided beyond the 10 years if this current solution is still in place.
 - b. Along with Greg Thompson of the MBTA I organized a meeting of the Groundwater Working Group Technical Advisory Committee in April. The group reviewed all of the work accomplished so far in addressing the low groundwater levels in affected area, the existing solution in place and explored the potential for a permanent solution.
 - c. The meeting produced a consensus that at this time the existing solution is still the preferred solution. The group will work exploring potential alternatives to aid the existing solution.
4. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system have dropped back a bit but the levels are still within their usual range. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a re-design effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that plan and is targeted for upgrade.
5. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. In the South End areas of infiltration were grouted in 12/2018 & 3/2019. No change to GW levels. Additional locations of infiltration discovered. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and repairs.
 - b. Currently investigating if they can implement grout repairs like the ones that have been made along Montgomery Street for repairs along Clarendon & Gray Street in the South End. The primary issue is access since it is a smaller pipe. Contractor currently investigating best options.
 - c. In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, infiltration has been discovered. BWSC is inspecting additional infrastructure and formulating a repair plan.
 - d. Stuart Street area of the Back Bay between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets were televised. 2 sewers (North and South side of the street) investigated. Southern sewer fine. Northern sewer

and manholes indicated voids and infiltration. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and repairs.

- e. In the Back Bay, Saint James Avenue and Providence Street inspections of pipe and manholes indicated no infiltration. Providence Street infrastructure above the current groundwater table. Scope along Saint James Avenue will be extended west, towards Clarendon Street.
 - f. On Blagden Street in the Back Bay infiltration was observed in infrastructure. BWSC to file change work order to current construction contract to repair.
 - g. In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to file change work order to current construction contract to repair.
6. **MWRA** – In the spring, the MWRA re-inspected approximately 4,000-ft. of the Boston Marginal Conduit (BMC), which runs along the Storrow Drive embankment. Minor signs of weeping at four locations that were previously discovered during the inspection are still present but have not worsened. No new leaks were observed. Investigations along Maverick Street, between Frankfort and Gove Street's in East Boston, showed no areas of infiltration. Will continue to look at all infrastructure in this area.
7. **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 Spring.
8. **Website** – Traffic on the website remains steady. We continue to average 100 visits/day and around 250 page views/day. In addition, each of our 3 informational videos now has over 600 views.