

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
January 11th, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Patriot 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 4:02 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Andre Jones, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Austin Blackmon, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Kathryn Bell, Neighborhood Liaison at the Office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim; Mr. Rory Cuddyer, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space; Mr. James Lambrechts, Professor at Wentworth Institute of Technology; Mr. Vincent Umipig, Civil Engineer at Wentworth Institute of Technology; Mr. John Kastrinos, Haley & Aldrich; Mr. Mike Atwood, Haley & Aldrich; Mr. Elliott Laffer, Back Bay resident; Mr. Patrick Lyons, Legislative Aide for Massachusetts State Representative Aaron Michlewitz

1. Debut of Underpinning Video

Mr. Simonelli played a final draft version of the underpinning video for the Board. The Board had the following comments:

- An introductory statement with a softer open should be included before Mr. Simonelli first appears on-screen
- Initial cut too long and should be split into at least 2, 4-5 minute videos instead of the current 11 minute version
- Section on Article 32 zoning should be part of one of the videos
- Section on what causes groundwater levels to drop should also be part of one of the videos

The Board instructed Mr. Simonelli to go back to the vendor, review the stock footage, and discuss options for 2 videos. Mr. Simonelli will report back to the Board at the March 15th meeting.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the November 16th, 2017 Meeting

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the November 16th, 2017 meeting.

3. Financial Reports

Mr. Hemenway reviewed the BGwT's financial reports. Discussion followed.

4. 2017 SEP-IRA Contribution

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's annual contribution to the Trust employee SEP-IRA account. He noted that the budgeted amount was \$4,500. Based on the 2017 W-2, a 5% contribution would require \$4,150. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the 5 % contribution. Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To approve the annual 5% contribution to the Trust employee SEP-IRA.

5. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report January 11th, 2018* for a complete list of activities.

6. Other Business

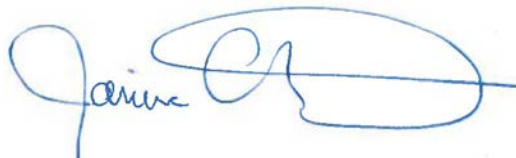
Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, indicated that the Board would have an executive session at the March meeting to discuss the results of Mr. Simonelli's individual meetings with Trustees. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 15th, 2018 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 1/17/18

Approved 31 January 2018



J Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
January 11th, 2018

1. **Readings** – We are currently wrapping up our eighth set of readings for 2017/2018. I have hired a new part time Field Engineer from Wentworth Institute of Technology.
2. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - I met with Daniel McCormack and Michael Mosher of Blu Cloud Technology and deployed a remote data logger in one of our wells. The logger is actively logging and streaming water level data to a cloud database (12/4).
 - I met with Gordon Richardson to discuss a long-term solution for the low water levels in the South End Ellis Neighborhood (12/6).
 - I met with Mike Atwood of Haley and Aldrich, Don Schechter and Jackie Noack of Charles River Media to finalize our underpinning video (12/7).
 - I convened a meeting with members of our Technical Advisory Committee to discuss our latest groundwater level data (12/14).
 - I testified on the proposed 430 Unit Tower and Huntington Theatre expansion Project in the Fenway at the Boston Planning and Development Agency Board of Directors Meeting (12/14).
 - I've met weekly with Professor James Lambrechts and Vincent Umipig of Wentworth. We reviewed an outline to begin writing a follow-up to Professor Lambrechts 1986 paper on Groundwater in the Back Bay.
 - 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.
3. **Project LightWell** – We removed our 10 interactive well covers on Newbury Street in December. We will relaunch the program along Boylston Street in the spring of 2018. We hope to coordinate with the Boylston branch of the Boston Public Library to display our interactive map and cover currently on display at the AutoDesk facility.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 42 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. The MBTA has confirmed that funds set aside for the ongoing recharge efforts in the South End will be made available to them through the Mass DOT FY2018-2022 Capital Investment Plan. At the last City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting the MBTA's consultant updated the group on the history of the depressed levels in the Ellis neighborhood. Going forward I'll be working with the MBTA, members of the City-State, residents, and the appropriate elected officials to revisit finding a long term solution for the South End Ellis Neighborhood.
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 continues to work as designed. The DCR and their consultants are working with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that plan and will be targeted for possible upgrade.

6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. Fairfield Street repairs have been completed and groundwater levels have come up substantially in the area. Both liners have been installed and the manholes in the area have also been rehabilitated. All work was completed shortly after Thanksgiving. We continue to datalog 3 wells in the area to verify that the repairs have held. Those will be kept in the wells through the winter.
 - b. BWSC and their contractor did an excellent job of performing the work in a timely manner and coordinated with abutters in the neighborhood to help minimize impact of the repairs to their daily activities.
 - c. BWSC continues their investigations in the South End, North End, and Stuart Street area between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets.
7. **MWRA** - Inspected approximately 4,000-ft. of the Boston Marginal Conduit (BMC), which runs along the Storrow Drive embankment. Minor signs of infiltration at four spots were discovered during the inspection. Those four spots will be repaired. Additional inspections were conducted this in July and no new leaks were observed. A final investigation will be conducted once groundwater levels rise and repairs are scheduled for the spring of 2018.
8. **MassDOT** - Repairs to 60' of the 30" reinforced concrete pipe, which runs parallel along the Turnpike and terminates at the prudential garage, were made this summer. So far there has been no benefit to area groundwater levels. The plan is to inspect during dry weather this fall to verify that the repairs have held. Additional investigations will be conducted.