

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
January 14th, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting at the Boston Common Hotel & Conference Center in room #305. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at Boston City Hall in accordance with provisions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Ms. Charlotte Moffat, Boston Conservation Commission
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ms. Lisa Soli, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space,
City of Boston
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Mohona Siddique, Neighborhood Liaison at the Office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim; Mr. Anthony Gilardi, Chief of Staff to Trustee Blackmon; Mr. Phil McKenna, freelance writer; Ms. Ardith Myers, South End Resident.

1. Adoption of the minutes of the November 19th, 2015 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed. Ms. Soli, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the November 19^h, 2015 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, reviewed the Trust's financial reports. Mr. Hemenway noted that the Trust account has received its annual funding from the City of Boston. He also noted that 20 data loggers have been purchased as planned. Discussion followed.

3. 2015 SEP-IRA Contribution

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's annual contribution to employee SEP-IRA accounts. He noted that a 5% contribution had been agreed to as an element of his current contract for employment, and that the Trust's 2015 budget had set aside up to \$4,300 for SEP-IRA contributions. Based on 2015 employee W-2's, a 5% contribution would require \$3,942.31. Discussion followed.

Ms. Soli, Trustee, moved to adopt the 5 % contribution. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, seconded the motion.

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

4. Update on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the status of a pilot project for determining whether ground penetrating radar, a non-invasive technology, can be used to locate the elevation of the tops of wood piles beneath row houses and other pile-supported buildings in Boston. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that in an October 23, 2015 conference call with (now former) HGI Project Manager Alex Buller and Vice President Mario Carnevale, HGI had agreed to conduct a pilot test at a location with known pile cut-off elevations at no cost to the Trust. However, in the revised proposal dated December 30, 2015 from President Jutta Hager, a cost was attached to the pilot test. Discussion followed. The Board suggested Mr. Simonelli contact HGI to discuss the revised proposal and ask if HGI would attend the March Board meeting. Discussion followed. In addition, the Board also requested that Mr. Simonelli survey local universities as potential hosts/partners for a research project using GPR and/or other innovative non-invasive technologies. Discussion followed.

5. Annual Network Review

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the 2015 network well elevations and progress made in various locations throughout the city. Mr. Simonelli reviewed established reading zones, annual reading frequency, and annual precipitation numbers. He also reviewed locations in the North End, Lower Beacon Hill, Storrow Drive, the Back Bay, the Fenway, and the South End. Discussion followed.

6. Update on Piles Cutoff above EL. 5'

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the pile-height cutoff database that he has compiled from online Inspectional Services Department and Boston Public Library records. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, noted that the Board should explore ways it can manage buildings that have cut-off elevations above EL.5'. Discussion followed.

7. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 14th, 2016* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 17th, 2016 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.
Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 1/15/2016.



Approved by J. Commerford, Secretary, BGwT
1/27/16

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
January 14th, 2016

1. **Readings** - I hired a new well reader in December and we started our first well reading set last week.
2. **Meetings** - I met with Samuel Chambers (11/17) the neighborhood liaison for the South End, to review the efforts of the Trust and our role in the GCOD zoning process. I attended the Boston Society of Architects December meeting (12/10). The focus topic was preserving historic timber pile-supported buildings in Boston. I met with Phil McKenna (12/15), freelance writer who attended our November Board meeting. He is interested in writing a story on the Trust. I attended the BU Myles Standish Hall and Annex Renovation Project scoping session (1/6). I met with City Engineers (1/8) for the Copley Square Public Library renovation and reviewed our well locations around the library to ensure that the wells are protected during construction. I met with residents throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to satisfy the zoning.
3. **MBTA** - Approximately 54.1 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 recharge system on Cazenove Street overflowed on 1/11/16 and was temporarily shut down by BWSC on 1/12/16. MBTA is investigating the issue. Levels in the Appleton & Tremont Street area are lower than what was projected. The T is investigating why levels are not higher and will update us at the January City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting. On a positive note, the level in the Berkeley Street well by the Benjamin Franklin Institute has slowly risen over the past couple of months and is highest it has been since last March.
4. **Porous Alley 543** - We continue to datalog two wells in Porous Alley No. 543. The City (as they committed) will vacuum and inspect the Alley in November and have committed to continuing their semi-annual vacuuming and inspection. I am waiting for a report. Regular monitoring of the wells in the area will continue.
5. **BWSC** - BWSC is continuing their investigation of the low levels by Clarendon and Gray streets in the South End and will conduct dye test and videotape sewer lines. They are also investigating lines along Stuart Street and in Alley No. 430. They will update us at will update us at the January City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting.
6. **MassDOT** - Inspected 48" storm drain trunk line along the prudential tunnel drainage system on 7/22 and discovered groundwater infiltration. Two leaks were sealed in the drain line last week and MassDOT is scheduled to go again this week. A field report detailing their work will be provided at the January City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting.
7. **Veolia Energy** - After a more detailed look at existing infrastructure in their buildings, the Prudential and the Hancock Tower will not have their steam condensate reintroduced as groundwater recharge. The Copley Square Public Library and other steam customers will be investigated as possible locations. Veolia submitted data to DEP on discharge content and are making good headway outlining a proper permitting process that will allow the injection of condensate.
8. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** - Although still low, levels in this area have rebounded. A nearby underpinning project that may have had an effect on levels in the nearby wells has been completed. We continue to monitor two wells in the area two dataloggers. We are waiting to see if the repairs made in the Turnpike drain line have a positive effect.
9. **Eliot Hotel** - The Eliot Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue has had water seeping in through their elevator pits and basement. The problem first sprung up last May and occurred again this past December. BWSC tested the water and the results indicate that it may be groundwater or a possible internal sewer leak. The Hotel has asked BWSC to perform a dye test in the sewer to see if there is a leak.
10. **Website** - I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our "Newest" tab on our homepage. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.