

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
January 16th, 2014

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage Room at the Lenox Hotel. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA)
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Josh Zakim, City Council District 8

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Re-charge Coordinator; Mr. Jacob Glickel, Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy; Mr. Mr. Reza Ghasemizadeh, Northeastern University student; Mr. Ian Mackenzie, Saint Botolph Street resident; Mr. David Curry, West Canton Street resident.

1. Adoption of the minutes of the November 21st, 2013 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Ms. Commerford, Trustee, suggested a minor edit to the minutes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the revised minutes; Mr. Moy, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the November 21st, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the custom transaction detail report and balance sheet detail. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted that a bond had matured since the board's last meeting (November 2013) and that those funds were re-invested into a new certificate of deposit. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden also noted that additional bonds are set to mature in March and May of 2014. Discussion followed.

3. Election of Secretary

Mr. Laffer noted that due to the resignation of Mr. Galen Gilbert (Trust Secretary) at the last board meeting, the Trust needed appoint a new Secretary. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, introduced Ms. Commerford as a potential candidate. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden, Trustee, nominated to appoint Ms. Commerford as the new Trust Secretary. Mr. Moy seconded the motion.

Voted: To appoint Ms. Commerford as the new Trust Secretary.

4. 2013 SEP-IRA Contribution

Mr. Laffer reviewed the Trust's annual contribution to the employee's established SEP-IRA accounts. He noted that the budgeted amount was \$4,900 and based on the 2013 W-2's a 3% contribution would require \$4,765.38. Discussion followed.

Mr. Moy moved to adopt the 3 % contribution. Mr. Galer seconded the motion.

Voted: To approve the annual 3% contribution to the Trust employees SEP-IRA.

5. Porous Alley Project Update

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Porous Alley project contract between the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. He noted that Public Alley 543 in the South End was selected for this project. Mr. Laffer noted that the project will commence in the spring 2014 and that the Trust has installed two wells and is monitoring these and four additional surrounding observation wells with data loggers as part of this project. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 16th, 2014* for additional details.

6. MBTA Plans for Ellis Neighborhood

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the T's long-term action plan for raising and maintaining the groundwater levels in the Ellis Neighborhood area. Mr. Laffer noted that the T has installed the new recharge wells and the wells are scheduled to be in operation by the end of this month. He noted that there have been slight delays due to inclement weather. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 16th, 2014* for additional details.

7. **Impact of Change to Elevation 4' for Lowest Reading Category**

Mr. Laffer reviewed the latest set of readings completed in November, 2013. He reviewed the elevation categories sorted by color that have been established. He noted that in the past, areas with water levels reading at elevation 3' or below were targeted for closer attention. He described the progress that has been made in those areas over the years. Low ground-water levels in those areas have been raised substantially due to the attention focused on them by the BGWT; repairs made to infrastructure and additional recharge systems that have been installed through the city's Article 32 zoning have increased these levels to the point that relatively few wells typically read below elevation 3'. As a result, the lowest category has now been set at elevation 4'. Discussion followed.

8. **Executive Director's Report**

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 16th, 2014* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

9. **Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update**

BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli reviewed his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGWT Meeting: January 16th, 2014* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 20th, 2014 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.
Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 1/17/14.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
January 16, 2014

1. **Transition** – It appears that the team at Energy and Environment will be staying place in the new administration. I look forward to continuing to work with them on groundwater issues.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again next week.
3. **MBTA** – After a delay caused by the snow and extreme cold, the recharge wells are now scheduled to be turned on before the end of the month. We have data loggers in place in four wells in the immediate area, and the MBTA has loggers in several more. We will be closely tracking the results to make sure that they align with projected gains. Based on past experience, it is likely to take several months before groundwater stabilizes at higher levels.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC will be investigating why their recent repairs at Blagden St. behind the Boston Public Library raised levels for a short period but have failed to maintain those gains. They continue to monitor the progress at the Benjamin Franklin Institute in the South End, which is under order to eliminate pumping of groundwater into the BWSC system. BWSC will also be investigating another potential location where groundwater may be pumped into their system in the Back Bay.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT sealed nine additional leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike. They are now focusing on the area between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets, and will then move further to the west, although repairs there are complicated by the smaller diameter of the pipe in that area. With the onset of cold weather, these repairs are now likely to take place in the Spring.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We are working with ISD to try to streamline the system, without changing the zoning, for projects that need zoning approval only for GCOD and with no below-grade construction or building extension.
7. **Porous Alley** – Design work on the project to install a porous surface in Public Alley 543 in the South End is largely complete, and the project should go out for bid next month.
8. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
9. **Meetings** – I spoke at the Mayor's transition committee hearing on the environment and submitted written testimony, posted on our website. I attended a scoping session for Parcel K in the South Boston Innovation District. Christian and I met with the developer of a project on Massachusetts Avenue in the South End to discuss whether there might be a more economical way for him to meet GCOD requirements.

TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: January 16TH, 2014

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

WELL MONITORING

I started a new set of readings this week on Monday January 13th, 2014.

MEETINGS

- Attended the City's Environment Public Hearing with Elliott who provided testimony to Mayor Walsh's Environment Transition Committee leaders Alexander Bok and Amos Hostetter.

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Met with members of the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin who updated the design progress of the City's Green Alley Project in Public Alley No. 543.
- Met with representatives from 526 Massachusetts Avenue to review the design of their recharge system
- Met with Trustees of 100 Fulton Street to discuss the installation of a potential recharge system and the benefits of installing the system
- Spoke with residents and developers about the installation of different types of recharge systems that can be installed
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (4)

- 1 at the corner of Berkley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.

Blagden Street (3)

- 2 from the Exeter – Dartmouth St.
- 1 in front of the Copley Square Hotel

North End: Commercial Street (3)

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial St.
- 1 on Commercial St. in front of 145 Commercial St.
- 1 on Atlantic Ave., in front of 103 Atlantic Ave.

Alignment Loggers (3 Uploaded on a Monthly basis)

- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Arlington St. Bridge
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge
- 1 Adjacent to the alignment, at the rear of 95 Berkeley St.

Southwest Corridor: Alley 543, West Canton, & Holyoke Street (6)

- 2 in Alley 543
- 1 in front of 243 West Canton Street
- 1 in front of 38 Holyoke Street
- 1 in front of 24 Holyoke Street
- 1 at the corner of Holyoke Street and Columbus Avenue