

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Patriot meeting room at the Lenox Hotel located at 61 Exeter 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.

Ms. Janine Commerford, Secretary, read the following statement:

"I, Janine Commerford, Secretary of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 4:15 pm. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, we are conducting this meeting on-line. To ensure public access to the deliberations of the BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST, the public may access this meeting through telephone and video conferencing. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide public comment. To do so please, "raise your hand" in the application via the Zoom meeting platform. If you are calling in and cannot use the platform, you can send your questions to staff via email at csimonelli@bgwt.org or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #JUL23MTG."

The following trustees were present at the Lenox Hotel:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

The following trustees were present virtually:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association  
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation  
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation  
Ms. Beatrice Nessen, Boston Preservation Alliance (Departed meeting at 4:46pm)  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present at the Lenox Hotel was:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

Also present virtually were:

Ms. Katherine Eshel, Chief of Staff, Environment, Energy and Open Space, City of Boston  
Ms. Katherine England, Director of Green Infrastructure, City of Boston  
Ms. Alison Pulintas, Fenway News  
Mr. Steven Mark Riggs, resident of West Newton Street, Saint Botolph Neighborhood

**1. Presentation on Green Infrastructure by Katherine England, Director of Green Infrastructure City of Boston**

Mr. Simonelli introduced Ms. Katherine England.

Ms. England covered the following points during her presentation to the Board:

- What is Green Infrastructure?
- Revising Boston's stormwater infiltration and management requirements.
- Description of Boston's first Green Infrastructure policy.
- Green infrastructure maintenance & planting events.
- Plans for incorporating the Green Infrastructure program into the City's project plans, regulations, and operations.
- Provided images and videos of the following sites:
  - "Connect Historic Boston" - bike trail in the West End.
  - Nubian Square/Roxbury Boston Public Library.
  - Jackson Mann Community Center in Brighton.
- National Green Infrastructure certification program training.
- Stormwater Utility Program.

Ms. England took questions both during and after the presentation. Refer to the attached presentation for additional details.

**2. Adoption of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Mr. Simonelli noted that the meeting packet provided to the Trustees also included the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting notes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Ms. Liou, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To adopt the Board meeting minutes for 18 May 2023 and 15 June 2023.

**3. Financial Report**

Mr. Whitney, co-chair, and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed.

**4. Executive Director Review and Contract**

Mr. Whitney suggested the Board enter Executive Session. Ms. Commerford stated that the Board would reconvene in open session after the Executive Session was completed. Mr. Simonelli exited the meeting room at approximately 5:05pm and the Board entered Executive Session.

Mr. Simonelli returned to the meeting room at approximately 5:19pm and the Board reconvened in open session.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

6. **Other Business**

Mr. Simonelli suggested the Board invite John Sullivan, Chief Engineer, Boston Water & Sewer Commission, to a future Trustee meeting. The purpose would be to discuss the City of Boston's new Stormwater Utility Fee and details of its implementation, as well as the Commission's recent report on mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will reach out to John Sullivan.

Mr. Mitchell noted that a recent project in the Back Bay neighborhood includes a new underground parking system with a mechanical lift, as well as a new building constructed over a new foundation. He suggested Mr. Simonelli closely monitor this project. In addition, Mr. Mitchell also suggested that Mr. Simonelli follow up on a report out of Chicago regarding soil subsidence due to climate change and its effects on buildings. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will research this topic and report back to the Board.


Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm**

**NEXT MEETING: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel with a virtual attendance option.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 7/14/2023.

Approved 21 August, 2023



J. Commerford, Secretary

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

1. **Readings** - Completed second set of readings in 2023. Started 3<sup>rd</sup> set of readings for the Summer readings period.
2. **Meetings and Calls – (Virtual Via Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams)**
  - a. Virtually met with the City's Green Infrastructure (GI) Working Groups on the following dates:
    - i. GI Coordination/Maintenance: 5/19,6/2,6/16
    - ii. GI Policy: 6/9,7/7
    - iii. GI Working Group: 6/8
  - b. Met with Sharon Durkan, candidate for District 8 City Council seat. (5/15)
  - c. Attended Communicate and Connect meeting at the Boston Public Library. (5/15)
  - d. Met with Hannah Lyon-Galante, Climate Change Resiliency Specialist, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to review their efforts on combating climate change. (5/31)
  - e. Virtually attended forum on Emerging Governance Structures for Climate Resilience. (6/2)
  - f. Virtually attended Massachusetts 401(k) CORE Plan for Small Nonprofits webinar. (6/6)
  - g. Virtually met with Joshua Rosenthal, Chief of Operations, Boston Public Library, Central Branch, to review groundwater levels in and around the library. (6/7)
  - h. Met with Ty Gupta to review the project at 393-395 Beacon Street in the Back Bay. (6/8)
  - i. Virtually attended the Stanhope Hotel Joint Impact Advisory Group & Public Meeting. (6/8)
  - j. Attended Communicate and Connect meeting at the Boston Public Library. (6/12)
  - k. Virtually attended the Boston Water & Sewer Commission meeting. (6/12)
  - l. Virtually met with Daniel McCormack and Justin Comeau of BluCloud to review the 25-unit deployment. (6/13)
  - m. Attended the Mayors Coffee Hour in the Back Bay. (6/22)
  - n. Spoke with Tony Urbano, P.E., Senior Project Manager GZA, MBTA consultant, on adjusting flow rates in the recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood. (6/22)
  - o. Virtually met with Jagrat Jariwala and Jacqueline Salzer of SkyGeo to discuss the Trustees comments regarding their revised proposal. (6/26)
  - p. Virtually met with representatives for the project at 581 Boylston Street in the Back Bay. (7/5)
  - q. Virtually testified, at the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in May, June, and July.
  - r. Communicated with residents, engineers, attorneys, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to submit to meet the GCOD zoning.
3. **City & State Agency Updates-** All agencies will provide updates on their efforts to address groundwater at the next City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting on Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup>.

4. **BluCloud Automated Readers Update-** Units are being manufactured and will be shipped this month. We'll have units in East Boston, North End, Chinatown, Leather District, Lower Beacon Hill, Back Bay, South End, and Fenway by the end of July, beginning of August at the latest.