

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)

BOARD MEETING

July 16th, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Patriot room of the Lenox Hotel. 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 4:05 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Josh Zakim, Boston City Council, District 8
Mr. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space, City of Boston
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Ms. Lisa Soli, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Daniel Manning, Chief of Staff, Office of Civic Engagement, City of Boston

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Mohona Siddique, Neighborhood Liaison at the Office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim

1. Adoption of the minutes of the May 21st, 2015 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed. Ms. Soli, Trustee, noted that when she replies to the meeting invitation, the email is erased and she loses the attachments. Mr. Simonelli will send the attachments for all future meetings in a separate email.

Ms. Commerford, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the May 21st, 2015 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, reviewed the BGwT's financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that a bond matured and another bond was purchased in June.

3. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Feasibility Proposal

Mr. Simonelli noted that representatives from Hager GeoScience, Inc. will be presenting their proposal at the September 17th Trustees meeting. Discussion followed. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, noted that the Trust's technical advisory committee had reviewed the proposal, and although the committee was skeptical that the technology could be successfully applied to row houses, he and the committee do agree that the technology is worth exploring further. Discussion followed.

4. Datalogger Quotes

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the quotes for the purchase of 20 dataloggers from In-Situ, Inc. He followed up with In-Situ, Inc. and they upped their discount from 5% to 10% which accounted for roughly \$1,500 of additional savings. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli recommended the board provide authorization to purchase the 20 dataloggers from In-Situ, Inc. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to authorize the purchase of 20 dataloggers from In-Situ, Inc. for \$27,229.20; Ms. Soli, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To authorize the purchase of 20 dataloggers from In-Situ, Inc. for \$27,229.20.

5. Presentation of Pile Cut-off Database by Neighborhood

Mr. Simonelli provided a preliminary overview of the pile-height cutoff database that he has compiled from online Inspectional Services Department and Boston Public Library records. He has completed his review of available foundation information for most of the filled land neighborhoods of the City and has compared the available pile cut-off information to existing groundwater levels. Of the approximately 5668 structures in Boston built on filled land, pile cut-off information is available for only 17% of them. Availability of cut-off information varies greatly by neighborhood, from a high of 62% in the Fort Point Channel area to a low of 3% in the South End. Comparing this information against groundwater level data collected by the Trust provides an indication of which areas of the City may be at most risk from pile decay. (See the attached foundation data totals table for additional details.) Discussion followed.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that he will be on vacation from August 14th-23rd. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 16th, 2015* for a complete list of activities.

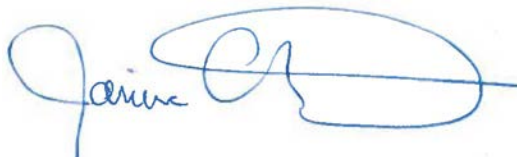
7. Other Business

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli reviewed the drastic decreases in groundwater levels in the vicinity of 44 Burbank street project in the Fenway area of Boston. He noted that groundwater levels dropped 3.5' to 4.5' since the last reading in late May. Discussion followed. Mr. Blackmon, Trustee, notified ISD and has them looking into the project. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 17th, 2015 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.
Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 7/17/15.

Approved 7/29/15



J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
July 16th, 2015

1. **Readings** – We wrapped up our second set of well readings for 2015 on June 11th. We started a new set of readings on June 14th and are roughly halfway through the set.
2. **GCOD** – We have entered into an MOU with ISD for approving projects that only trigger GCOD zoning. Once the proposed project plans are approved pursuant to Article 32 requirements, then the applicant will submit the BWSC approved plans and BWSC Article 32 letter to the ISD Plans Examiner and the Zoning Board of Appeal. Upon receipt of the letter and plan, the Boston Groundwater Trust will communicate any comments to the BWSC and the ZBA for consideration within 5 business days. Upon approval of the Zoning Appeal, the Board of Appeal shall file its written decision within two weeks of the hearing date, and upon expiration of the 20 day appeal period, ISD will issue the Conditional Use Permit.
3. **Meetings** – I met with Pascale Schlaefli (5/27), general manager of the Eliot Hotel, to review the groundwater issue and Article 32 zoning. I met with Anthony Gilardi (6/4), Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy to update him on the Trusts efforts. Along with Bob Uhlig, Art Byers, Maria Bellalta, and Jim Newman I presented an update on the performance of the Boston Architectural College porous green alley (6/18). I attended the scoping session (6/23) for the 500 Boylston Street courtyard project. I met with representatives from MassDOT (6/26) to review our observation well locations to ensure their preservation during construction along Massachusetts Avenue. I met new Neighborhood Services liaison's Jacob Wessel (7/2) (Back Bay) and Maria Lanza (7/7) (North End)
4. **MBTA** – Approximately 52.2 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. Levels in the Appleton & Tremont Street area are lower than what was projected. The T is investigating why levels are not higher and will report back to us at the City/State Groundwater Working Group.
5. **Porous Alley 543** –We continue to datalog (using instruments to record a water level every 60 mins.) six wells in the area and levels in these wells continue to be above post-porous alley installation levels. The City (as they committed) has vacuumed and inspected the Alley for the spring. According to the report generated by the City 90% of the debris were removed and the cleaning was acceptable and satisfactory.
6. **BWSC** – BWSC continues their investigation in Alley 430 and will be issuing a letter to all interested parties to provide an update on their efforts. I will be meeting with BWSC and members of the community in August where BWSC will update us on their efforts.
7. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Although still low, levels in this area have rebounded significantly. A nearby underpinning project may have had an effect on levels in the nearby wells since last April. We have three dataloggers in the area and will keep these in place until the nearby underpinning work has been completed.
8. **Website** – I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our "Newest" tab on our homepage. I have also updated the GCOD section of our website and moved our well data map to a new server. Our old map server host (Wynet Services) no longer supported our current map format. Our new server host is HostGator and will cost around \$100 less annually. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.
9. **Vacation** – I'll be on vacation from August 14-23.

BGwT Foundation Information Table

Back Bay								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
1371	490	10	403	3	6	10	30	28
Bay Village								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
159	8	0	1	0	0	0	7	0
Lower Beacon Hill								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
342	117	0	16	19	15	0	6	61
West Fenway								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
159	92	1	60	3	2	0	25	1
East Fenway								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
373	142	1	109	3	5	1	6	17
Audubon Circle								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
173	37	0	1	0	0	0	36	0
Bulfinch Triangle								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
58	20	1	11	2	0	0	6	0
Chinatown/Leather District								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
199	27	1	10	2	1	0	4	9
Fort Point Channel								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
63	39	1	11	25	1	0	1	0
Southwest Corridor								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
487	69	0	48	5	2	0	10	4
South End								
# Buildings	# w/Foundation Info	>4'	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	< 7'	Concrete	Underpinned
2068	64	1	17	1	4	0	35	6

NOTE: # of buildings is approximate