

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
March 20th, 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. Saunders, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Ms. Stephanie Krueel, Executive Secretary Boston Conservation Commission
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA)
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)
Mr. Josh Zakim, City Council District 8

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Re-charge Coordinator; Mr. Bob Uhlig, Halvorson Design Partnership, Inc.; Ms. Dragana Kovacevic; Student from the Boston Architectural College majoring in Sustainable Design

1. Adoption of the minutes of the January 16th, 2014 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Mr. Laffer noted that Mr. Shilland, Trustee, was mistakenly omitted from the attendees of the January 16th meeting and that the minutes have been corrected to reflect his attendance. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland moved to adopt the revised minutes; Ms. Sherden, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the January 16th, 2014 meeting with the above mentioned correction.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the transaction detail report, income and expense report, and balance sheet detail. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted that a bond had matured on 3/17/14 and that a new bond was purchased on 3/18/14. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that the BWSC annual contribution of \$25K is expected to be received soon. Discussion followed.

3. **Presentation on Landscape Architecture & Recharge by Bob Uhlig**

Mr. Uhlig described the installation of the Boston Architectural College's (BAC) Green Alley project located on the BAC campus in Public Alley 444, between the College's 951 Boylston Street building and the 320 Newbury Street building. Discussion followed.

4. **FY 2015 Budget Preliminary Discussion**

Mr. Laffer and Ms. Sherden reviewed the draft FY 2015 Budget. Discussion followed.

The board will review the budget and bring it to a vote at the May 15th Board meeting.

5. **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 began pumping water into the wells on January 29th. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer also noted that he and Mr. Christian Simonelli will be updating the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association on the MBTA's efforts in this area at their next board meeting on Tuesday March 25th at 6:30pm. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: March 20th, 2014* for additional details.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: March 20th, 2014* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

7. **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: March 20th, 2014* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 15th, 2014 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 3/24/14.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 20, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in April.
2. **MBTA** – The T's consultants are closely monitoring the results of the increase in recharge from their new wells and have adjusted some of the flows. Our most recent readings, as well as the data loggers that we have in multiple observation wells in the area, show a substantial increase in groundwater levels at several locations, although some are still not high enough to completely protect pilings.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. They continue to press the Benjamin Franklin Institute to complete their planned repairs so that the Institute will no longer be pumping groundwater.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the rest of the drain line from the MassPike Prudential tunnel and discovered a leak near Exit 20, very close to a long-standing low groundwater zone at the corner of Exeter Street and Huntington Avenue. Because the grouting repair requires warmer weather, it will likely take place in the spring.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 220 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. The Board of Appeals has put in place a streamlined system that sets up a special portion of Board hearings for those projects that require only a conditional use permit for GCOD; this will take them out of the regular queue, reduce wait time for a hearing on these cases, and also allow the Board to slot additional cases in its regular agenda.
6. **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 shortly.
7. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
8. **Meetings** – I met with the community liaison for newly elected District 8 Councilor (and trustee) Josh Zakim to update her on the groundwater issue. I also met with a graduate student at the Boston Architectural College who is studying ways to build coalitions to advance issues of interest to both the commercial and residential communities and wanted to learn how the efforts around groundwater came together.

<p style="text-align: center;">TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: March 20TH, 2014</p>
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TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

WELL MONITORING

I finished the first set of readings for 2014 on Monday March 10th. I started a new set of readings on Friday March 14th.

MEETINGS

- Attended City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting on 1/24
- Met with the Technical Advisory Committee
- Attended FY 2015 budget meeting
- Met with Steve Hallem of the Mass DEP to discuss their groundwater well database

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Met with representatives from 526 Massachusetts Avenue to review the design of their recharge system
- 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.
- 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 Laffer

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (7)

- 1 at the corner of Berkeley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.
- 1 at the corner of Tremont & Appleton St.
- 1 on Columbus Ave., adjacent to 75 Clarendon St.
- 1 in front of 41 Berkeley 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