

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
March 18th, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall. Mr. Whitney, co-chair, read the following statement:

“I, Robert Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 4:04 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 #MAR2021MTG.”

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Edward McGuire, City of Boston, Director of Neighborhood Services

Also, present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Susan Mojica, Salem, MA Resident

1. Adoption of January 14th, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the January 14th, 2021 meeting.

2. Financial Report & Potential Investment Strategies Update

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitney updated the Board on his discussion with Mr. James McCann of Fidelity Investments regarding potential investment strategies for the Trust's portfolio. In addition, he reviewed the current mechanism for reinvestment of securities that have matured. Discussion followed. Moving forward the Trustees decided to stay the current course with the Fidelity account and revisit potential investment strategies later in the year. Discussion followed.

3. Preliminary Budget Discussion for FY22

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY22 budget. He noted that based on discussions with Mr. Carl Spector, Commissioner for the City of Boston Environment Department, he expects that the Trust's annual appropriation from the City of Boston will be reduced by \$10K compared to previous years. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli also noted that he expects to receive the annual contribution from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission sometime in the coming weeks. Discussion followed.

Ms. Liou, Trustee, and Mr. Galer suggested it would be helpful to include the previous two fiscal years in the draft budget tables for comparison purposes. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will revise the draft budget and bring it back to the Trustees for a vote at the next Board meeting.

4. Draft Ordinance for Legal Representation Update

Mr. Whitney updated the Board on his correspondence with the office of City Councilor Kenzie Bok. Discussion followed. Moving forward Mr. Whitney will work with Mr. Simonelli to set up a meeting with Councilor Bok. Discussion followed. An update will be provided at the next Trustee's meeting.

5. Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Amicus Brief Update

Mr. Simonelli, Mr. Whitney, and Mr. Mitchell updated the Board on the Oral Arguments in Perry v. Glynn, et al. which took place virtually via the Massachusetts Appeals Court Oral Arguments YouTube channel on March 11th, 2021. Discussion followed.

6. GCOD Amendments Update

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the timeline for the proposed amendments to the GCOD zoning and the upcoming citywide meeting which will be virtually hosted by on the BPDA on Monday March 29th, 2021. Discussion followed.

7. Executive Director's Report

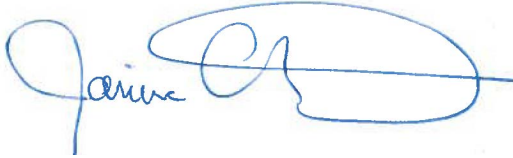
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report March 18th, 2021* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 13th, 2021 @ 4:00 pm, via Zoom Meeting platform.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 3/24/2021.

Approved 1 April 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Commerford". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 18th, 2021

1. **Readings** – Completed first set of readings for 2021. Close to a one-third of the wells were inaccessible due to snow and ice cover. Second set of readings started last week.
2. **Meetings and Calls**–
 - Zoomed proposed GCOD amendments to the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association (ACNA). (1/19)
 - Zoomed scoping session for the proposed 125 Lincoln Street project in the Leather District. (1/15)
 - Zoomed with project team for the proposed 41 Berkeley Street project (Benjamin Franklin Institute) in the South End. (1/29)
 - Met with John Braught, new Director of Operations at the Old South Church, to discuss groundwater levels and on-site observation well access. (2/10)
 - Zoomed with newly appointed Trustee Edward McGuire. (2/11)
 - Attended the 2nd meeting for the renovation of Copley Square via Zoom. (2/11)
 - Zoomed proposed GCOD amendments to the Boston City Council. (2/19)
 - Attended public meeting via Zoom and wrote a comment letter for the proposed 149-155 Newbury Street (The Aubry) project in the Back Bay. (2/22)
 - Zoomed with members of the Climate Resilience Department and BPDA staff about Groundwater levels and potential sea-level rise mitigation efforts for East Boston. (2/25)
 - Zoomed with Mark Balfe, Haley & Aldrich, to discuss the proposed Cross Street Boutique Hotel project in the North End. (3/2)
 - Zoomed our proposed GCOD amendments to members of the Fort Point Channel Neighborhood Association (FPNA). (3/4)
 - Zoomed with co-chair Rob Whitney to review agenda items for upcoming Board meeting. (3/5)
 - Attended scoping session via Zoom for the proposed Cross Street Boutique Hotel project in the North End. (3/8)
 - Participated via Zoom in the first of three Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) meetings. (3/9)
 - Attended via WebEx Inspectional Services Department (ISD) Zoning 101 Workshop. (3/10)
 - Testified via WebEx Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in January and February.
 - Communicated with residents, engineers, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to submit to meet the GCOD zoning.
3. **BluCloud Remote Monitoring Solution** –A new, custom device from their partner company has been connected and is making successful readings in the BluCloud platform. 5 new units were manufactured and deployed. The team will provide access to the data this week.
4. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - In the South End significant repairs were completed Dartmouth & Montgomery Streets area last week. We will be reading the wells in this area next week and hope to see an increase in groundwater levels. Pipes and laterals at Clarendon & Gray Streets will be repaired as part of Capital Improvement Projects. Two manholes at Warren & Clarendon Streets were relined and groundwater levels in the area are at all-time highs.

Investigations along Tremont Street, from the West Canton to Herald Street corridor are ongoing.

- In the North End additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets revealed leaking joints. Repairs are slated under the Capital Improvement Project with the timeline to be determined.
 - In Lower Beacon Hill a leaking manhole at Brimmer and Beacon Streets was relined at the beginning of October, but groundwater levels have not responded. BWSC will go back and reinspect.
 - In the Back Bay, a deep sewer on Berkeley Street, between Beacon & Back Street, revealed leaks at the crown (top) of the pipe which is at approximately El. 5', where current groundwater levels have been measured. Additional inspections and repairs are scheduled.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 44.3 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets. In addition to our manual monitoring, we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.
- The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years.
 - In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
6. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system.
- Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps operating normally with no anomalies.
 - The DCR will be putting in a new fence and repairing the seawall which runs adjacent to Storrow Drive in the Clarendon Street to Massachusetts Avenue section.