

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 12th, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Dome Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston 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. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. The following trustees were present:

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

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mrs. Giuliana A. Zelada-Tumialan, P.E., Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger; Mr. Steven Keppel, P.E., Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger; Mr. John O'Brien, Suffolk Law Student; Gretchen Gallagher, North End Resident

1. **Presentation by Steven Keppel and Giuliana Zelada-Tumialan of Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger on the relationship between Wood Piles and Sea Level Rise**

Mr. Keppel and Mrs. Zelada-Tumialan presented, "*The Relationship between Wood Piles and Sea Level in Boston.*" The presentation highlighted the following:

- Untreated timber pile fungal decay
- Untreated timber pile bacterial decay
- The variability in the life and strength of wood piles vs. the age of the wood
- Mitigating sea level rise and the potential future risk to structures supported on wood piles
- Compressive strength of submerged timber piles
- Reviewed wood pile service life case study of an existing structure in Boston

Discussion followed.

2. **2020 Proposed Meeting dates**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the meeting dates for the 2020 Board meetings. He noted that all meeting dates have been confirmed by the Lenox Hotel and that he is exploring options for alternative meeting locations throughout the year. Discussion followed.

3. **Adoption of September 5th, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the September 5th, 2019 meeting.

4. **Financial Report**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financial reports. He noted that the Trust received and deposited their annual operating funds from the City. In addition, he stated that Mr. Whitney, Trustee, has agreed to serve as Treasurer. Discussion followed.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

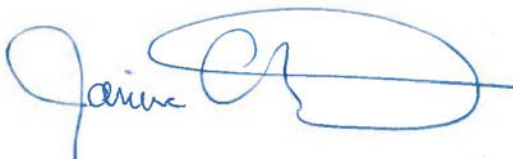
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report November 12th, 2019* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 16th, 2020, @ 3:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 11/14/2019.

Approved 20 November 2019



J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 12th, 2019

1. **Readings** – Started our seventh set of readings of the year.
2. **Meetings/Presentations** –
 - a. Wrote a comment letter for the 350 Boylston Street project. (10/16)
 - b. Attended webinar on lateral lining techniques. (10/17)
 - c. Met with members of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review all locations of low groundwater levels throughout our monitoring area. (10/22)
 - d. Attended the City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting. (10/24)
 - e. Attended scoping session (10/29) and wrote a comment letter for the Chinatown 290 Tremont Street (Parcel-12C) project. (10/31)
 - f. Met with ISD Commissioner Dion Irish & Kim Thai, ISD Assistant Commissioner of Plans and Zoning, to review the proposed revisions to Article 32 and protocol for obtaining wood pile cut-off data. (10/30)
 - g. Met with Mark Ott, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, about sharing our work and updating his office on the efforts of the Trust. (10/30)
 - h. Attended scoping session for the Fenway 1252-1270 Boylston Street project. (11/5)
 - i. Spoke & met with residents, engineers, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to meet the zoning.
3. **BluCloud** – Our automated readings project has hit a bit of a technical snag. A new Board has been designed and currently being tested in a controlled environment.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 45.1 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.
 - a. The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years and have assured me that funding will be provided beyond the 10 years if this current solution is still in place.
 - b. In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
 - c. MBTA consultant exploring the feasibility of installing a jet grout barrier wall as discussed at the April, 2019 MBTA technical advisory committee meeting.
5. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system remain and assure that they remain in their usual range. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that redesign and is targeted for upgrade. Potential for a DCR and DOT partnership for repairs. DOT would do construction and then give back to DCR upon completion.
6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. In the South End working on spot repairs at locations where infiltration was observed. Still need to CCTV additional locations.
 - b. In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, repairs were made to manholes but so far no bump in water levels. Scheduled to CCTV manholes and lines again in Richmond and Commercial Streets and the manholes and lines running to Columbus Park.
 - c. Stuart Street area of the Back Bay between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets were televised and indicated voids and infiltration. One sewer was repaired in mid-June but no change has been observed in the groundwater levels. BWSC to follow-up with ad-

ditional inspections and repairs of pipes and manholes in this area. Need to coordinate with Veoila to access lines for CCTV investigations

- d. On Blagden Street in the Back Bay infiltration was observed in infrastructure. BWSC has filed change work order to current construction contract for point repairs of lines and grouting of laterals.
 - e. In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to has filed change work order to current construction contract to push up the repair.
7. **MWRA** – Infrastructure was investigated and BWSC has observed some flow along Maverick Street, between Frankfort and Gove streets and at the intersection of Breman and Porter streets in East Boston. MWRA will go back out and re-inspect.
 8. **MassDOT** - Cleaning and lining of the Prudential tunnel stormwater drainage system (18”and 30” lines) is scheduled for the end of November.
 9. **Website** – Traffic on the website remains steady. We continue to average 100 visits/day and around 250 page views/day.