

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in room #305 of the Boston Common Hotel & Conference Center. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provisions of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)  
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance  
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Mr. Daniel Manning, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Civic Engagement

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Mohona Siddique, City Councilor Josh Zakim's Office; Ms. Van Du, Environment & Energy (City of Boston); Mr. David Hancock, CBT Architects

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting**

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. Galer, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

**2. Financial Report**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that he and Mr. Hemenway, Trustee (now Treasurer) will meet with the former Treasurer and Trustee Ms. Molly Sherden to review financial documents and procedures. Discussion followed.

3. **2015 Meeting Dates**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the meeting dates for the 2015 Board meetings. Discussion followed.

4. **Update on GCOD Streamlining Process**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the latest efforts to streamline the GCOD process. He noted that the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals recently instituted a GCOD-only session in the 9:30am slot. This GCOD-only slot was implemented in August and has worked very well to speed up the approval process for those projects which only require zoning relief for GCOD. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014* for additional information.

5. **Porous Alley Project Update**

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the completed Porous Alley Project in Alley 543 located in the South End. He noted that the performance of the system thus far has been excellent and has raised groundwater levels in and around the alley significantly. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014* for additional information.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014* for a complete list of all activities.

7. **Other Business**

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, reviewed the Back Bay project located at 45-53 Hereford St. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that the project did trigger GCOD and that the proponent has committed to and met the zoning requirements for GCOD. Discussion followed.

Mr. Commerford, Trustee, inquired about the performance of the recharge system that was installed as part of the Berkeley School of Music dormitory building on Massachusetts Avenue. Mr. Simonelli noted that he would look at the groundwater levels in area and see if the recharge system is having positive effect. He noted that the Trust received 6 new wells as part of their project and that all 6 wells were very high; above elev. 7' BCB. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli acknowledged and welcomed Mr. Daniel Manning, the newly appointed Trustee from the Office of Mayor Walsh. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Fenway CDC has appointed Ms. Lisa Soli to the Board of Trustees and that she expects to attend the next board meeting in January 2015.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**  
Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 11/21/14.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

1. **Readings/Field Engineer** – Wrapping up our last set of readings for the year and should be finished by the first week in December. So far most wells are up and we have bunch of all-time highs. We typically read the 825 network 7-8 times per year. I'm the process of interviewing new field engineer candidates for the Jan-Apr 2015 semester.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reports from individual agencies are described below.
3. **MBTA** – The T is working on a long term monitoring plan agreement with their consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental to continue the monitoring of groundwater levels and the adjustments of the recharge systems in the Ellis Neighborhood area. The flow rate in the Appleton Street Recharge well decreased from 8.8 gpm to 5.2 gpm. It was unclear as to why the flow rate decreased since GZA did not make a change. GZA did recommend that the flow rate be increased with additional monitoring of groundwater levels. I'm follow-up with GZA and find out when they plan to make that change.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. Manholes in the area were grouted last December and the lines in Commercial Street were walked last spring by divers with no apparent infiltration observed. They will continue to look at the lines in the area using some new robot technology and dye tests. On Blagden Street, point repairs were made at the corner of Blagden St. and Huntington Ave. No new infiltration points have been discovered.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the drainage station in the Prudential. No major infiltration was observed. Some dry weather flow was observed and it may be coming from the various joints located in the pipe. MassDOT will attempt to measure it using a new device.
6. **DCR** – The DCR is inspecting their pumps and controllers in the area along Back Street in Back Bay. One of the pump controllers that DCR uses to transfer water that drains from the Storrow Drive tunnel to the recharge system under Back Street failed and was replaced. One of their other pumps was tripped out for two weeks and they're looking into why that occurred. In addition, they will be jetting (cleaning out) pipes that carry the water to the recharge galleys in Back Street.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA will be notifying us of permits that are submitted for dewatering. This is helpful to us if we see a sudden drop in an area that we cannot explain. I instruct our well readers to make note of construction activities that may have potential negative effects groundwater levels. However, this additional notification will be yet another piece to the puzzle in assisting us in identifying groundwater level trends.
8. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Although still very 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.
9. **GCOD** – Efforts are being made to streamline the GCOD process and potentially remove compliant projects that only trigger GCOD requirements because of substantial renovations from the Board of Appeal process. I met with ISD Commissioner William Christopher, Gary Moccia, and Harry McGonagle of Inspectional Services to review a draft proposal. I also reviewed the proposal with Elliott and he forwarded his comments to Commissioner Christopher. Elliott has had positive follow-up correspondence with ISD and is continuing to hammer out a proposal in his role as Chief Strategy Officer.
10. **Porous Alley** – I attended a post construction site visit for Porous Alley No. 543 to review our datalogger protocol. Porous Alley No. 543 has been installed with informational plaques at both ends of the Alley detailing the purpose of the Porous Alley. We have had some significant rain and our dataloggers have showed some nice increases. The two wells installed in the Alley are up over foot and have stayed up. The four wells on the perimeter are also up almost a foot and have stayed up. We hope this positive trend continues. We will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Alley with the Mayor, DPW, and the Charles River Watershed Association on Friday November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am.

- 11. Meetings** – I met with ISD Commissioner Christopher, Gary Moccia, and Harry McGonagle of Inspectional Services to obtain a better handle on gathering information for buildings which have test pits dug or that will be underpinned. It was a productive meeting. I met with Tani Marinovich, the interim Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. We reviewed the efforts to restore the Hatch Shell Oval lawn and to ensure that the Trust’s wells in the area are protected during construction. Attended scoping sessions and submitted comment letters on the Garden Garage Project in the West End, Haymarket Parcel 9 Project, and the 135 Breman Street project in East Boston. I met with our newest Trustee Daniel Manning and reviewed the role of the Trust and provided background on the establishment of our organization.
- 12. Website** – I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our “Newest” tab on our homepage. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.
- 13. Vacation** – I’ll be on Vacation the week of Thanksgiving and the last two weeks in December. I’ll be checking email and the office phone for correspondence.