

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 19^h, 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 4:10 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. John Hemenway, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Ms. Lisa Soli, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

Also present:

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

1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 17th, 2015 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the September 17^h, 2015 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Hemenway, Trustee, reviewed the Trust's financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Trust had received its annual funding from the City.

3. 2016 Meeting Dates

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the meeting dates for the 2016 Board meetings. Discussion followed.

4. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Feasibility Proposal

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the status of a pilot project for determining whether ground penetrating radar, a non-invasive technology, can be used to locate the elevation of the tops of wood piles beneath row houses and other pile-supported buildings in Boston. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that Alex Buller, the Project Manager/Geophysicist from Hager GeoScience Inc. (HGI) who presented to the Board in September, has left HGI. The new point of contact will be Mario Carnevale. HGI has agreed to conduct a pilot test at a location with known pile cut-off elevations at no cost to BGwT. Mr. Simonelli has identified a potentially suitable test site, met with the owner of the building to explain the project, and received permission to allow HGI to test the GPR technology on the property. Weather permitting the pilot test will be conducted in December, 2015. Discussion followed.

5. Porous Alley Update

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on the Porous Alley Project in Alley 543 located in the South End. Mr. Simonelli reviewed existing groundwater level data and two years' worth (August 2013-August 2015) of levellogger data in six observation wells in the area. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that initial results were encouraging with GW rising substantially after rainfall, but this trend has since leveled off. As part of the monitoring and maintenance agreement the Charles River Watershed Association will take core samples of the porous section to determine if any clogging has occurred. Discussion followed.

6. Update on Groundwater Levels

Mr. Simonelli reviewed groundwater levels in various areas throughout the City. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli reviewed locations along Storrow Drive/Lower Beacon Hill, The Back Bay, The Fenway, The South End, and The North End. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that 2015 has been a very dry year (2015 YTD rainfall is 28.61", compared to 2014 total of 46.02".) and the lack of rainfall has had a negative impact groundwater levels. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli also noted areas where work is still needed to help raise groundwater levels. 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: November 19th, 2015* for a complete list of activities.

8. Other Business

Mr. Saunders, co-chair, noted that he and Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, met with Mr. Simonelli to review his performance and establish a task list for the upcoming year. Mr. Simonelli has signed an employment agreement with the BGwT to continue as Executive Director of the Trust for 2015-2016. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 14th, 2016 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 11/20/15.



Approved by J. Commerford, Secretary, BGwT
12/3/15