

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 19, 2013

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage meeting room, which is located in 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. 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 (NABB)
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)
Mr. Greg Galer, The Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Re-charge Coordinator; Mr. Jacob Glickel; Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy

1. Adoption of the minutes of the July 18, 2013 Meeting

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

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes Mr. Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

In Ms. Sherden's, Trustee, absence Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT Financial Reports. Discussion followed.

3. Website Update

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT's new website. He noted that the new site was launched on September 18, 2013. Mr. Simonelli walked the board through some of the sites new features. Discussion followed.

4. Porous Alley Project Update

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Porous Alley project, a joint venture of the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. He noted that Public Alley 543 in the South End was selected for this project. Mr. Laffer noted that the project will commence in the spring 2014 and that the Trust has installed two wells as part of this project. Mr. Laffer also reviewed the public meeting that occurred in August and the second public meeting which will occur September 26. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached Executive Director's Report: September 19, 2013 for additional details.

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 remains committed to the project and that the new recharge wells will be installed and in operation by mid-November of 2013. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached Executive Director's Report: September 19, 2013 for additional details.

6. Dartmouth Street Update

Mr. Laffer noted that BWSC fixed leaks in the 72" CSO that runs down Dartmouth Street and that the water levels have held since the repair in June. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached Executive Director's Report: September 19, 2013 for additional details.

7. Hot Spots Review

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the progress that has been made in various hot spots throughout the city from 2004 to the present. Mr. Simonelli reviewed locations in Storrow Drive/Lower Beacon Hill, The Back Bay, The Fenway, The South End, Bay Village, The North End, and East Boston. Discussion followed.

8. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: September 19, 2013* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

9. 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: September 19, 2013 for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 21st, 2013 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 9/20/13.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 19, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on October 24.
2. **MBTA** – The T has done some preliminary construction work and has signed a contract for the project to add new recharge wells that will help to raise groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. They remain on track for the project to be completed by mid-November.
3. **BWSC** – The repair work on Dartmouth Street has restored levels to where they were before the very low groundwater problem occurred several years ago. BWSC has made repairs to a sewer line in Blagden Street that have led to an increase in groundwater levels near Dartmouth Street; however, levels closer to Exeter Street remain low.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT planned to grout several identified leaks in the Turnpike drain line soon. If the grout repairs are inadequate, they will install bands in the pipe to seal leaks.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We worked with the BRA to refine standard language that assures compliance with the GCOD standard for assuring that projects cannot cause a reduction in groundwater language.
6. **Porous Alley** – We will be participating in a second public meeting next week to discuss work planned in the alley in the South End that has been tentatively selected to be the site of the porous alley pavement project that we are participating in with the Charles River Watershed Association and the City's Public Works Department. We have installed two new observation wells and have begun logging these and four other surrounding wells so that we can see the way they respond to rainfall both before and after installation, planned for next summer, so that we can quantify the benefit of this type of installation.
7. **ABX Conference** – Along with Boston Architectural College, Judith Nitsch Associates, and Halvorsen Design Partnership, we will be participating in a panel discussion at the ABX Conference in November to discuss efforts around groundwater with a focus on the Green Alley project installed between the college's buildings on Newbury and Boylston Streets.
8. **Website** – Our Technical and recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli, has developed a new website that will update the look and feel of our existing one while improving the arrangement of material and allowing us to update more quickly. The new site became operational this week. Once we've had a few days to make sure there are no quirks, I'll be putting out a notice to my email list and a press release.
9. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions on projects at 80 East Berkeley St, 1-3 Boylston Pl, and the Boston Garden site. I met with a candidate for City Council to give him background on the groundwater problem and what has been done to address it.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Belvidere/Dalton projects adjacent to the Christian Science Center and at Boston University, as well as those at 80 East Berkeley St and 1-3 Boylston Pl. All comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.

<p>TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: September 19TH, 2013</p>
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TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

Using website builder Weebly I have re-designed the Trust website. All content from the old website has been reformatted and added to the new website. The site is up and running.

I'd like to thank Stephanie and Jake for their help on this. Meeting with them and discussing the best ways to post data we have was very helpful. Their suggestions and insight were invaluable.

MEETINGS

- Attended the scoping session for Christian Science Plaza Project
- Attended the scoping session for 40 Trinity Place Project
- Attended the scoping session for 80 East Berkeley Street Project
- Attended the scoping session for The Boston Garden Project
- Met with members of the Arlington Street Church to review their monitoring efforts and obtain pile cut-off information.
- Coordinated with Jessica Zichichi and had her update some features and functions on the Trust Well Data Maps.

WELL MONITORING

I completed the fifth set of readings on August 26th. I started the sixth set of readings on September 3rd.

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Met with members of the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to discuss the best location for a proposed Green Alley Project. Public Alley No. 543 in South End was selected. As part of this project the Trust has installed two wells in this alley during this set of well installations. The Trust has also placed dataloggers in these wells and four additional wells surrounding the alley to document water levels pre and post porous pavement installation.
- Attended Abutters Meeting for Porous Alley 543 at Methunion Manor Co-op
- Continued to look at potential configurations to capture runoff from sidewalks before it hits the street.

- 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.

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (4)

- 1 at the corner of Berkley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.

Dartmouth Street (1)

- 1 adjacent to 330 Dartmouth Street

Blagden Street (3)

- 2 from the Exeter – Dartmouth St.
- 1 in front of the Copley Square Hotel

Newbury Street (1)

- 1 at 10 Newbury St.

Boylston Street (1)

- 1 in front of the Arlington St. Church

Storrow Drive (4)

- 4 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.

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