



## Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

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**Board/Committee:** Water Resources Protection Task Force

**Day & Date:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** VIRTUAL

**Signature:** Sue Croft

**Attendees:** Steve Gang, Tom Kehoe, Jessica Lamothe, Ron Mastrogiacomo, John Round, Ann Harrison, Nate Desrosiers, Chuck Dam, Jeff Cochand, David Lumsden, Fred Wales, Gordon Turner, Peter Colarusso, Helen Bethell, Olga Hayes, Scott Horsley, Randi Augustine, Sue Croft

### MINUTES

- Steve Gang called the meeting to order. There were no announcements.
- Steve gave a presentation that modelled different options for water rates. That presentation can be found [HERE](#). Currently the Town has six tiers for water rates ranging in cost from 6.6 cents per cubic foot to 9.23 cents per cubic foot. Steve showed today's use and alternative scenarios for conservation keeping in mind the need for revenues that align with the Town's need for water infrastructure improvements and repairs. Currently, residential use is about 150 million gallons per year. A question was asked if the state limits how much water rates can be increased. Scott Horsley's answer was that there is no regulation, but that the Town cannot create a profit through water use. John Round pointed out that in the scenario where users pay a significantly increased rate in the top tier that if those users were to drop their consumption by even 20% that would put them in a lower tier at a lower rate. Jeff Cochand mentioned that the Town will be working with Raftelis a consulting company that specializes in helping municipalities with these types of projects. Steve reiterated the need for the Town to continue the replacement of ancient water mains at an accelerated pace and the need for funding to do so.
- Scott Horsley gave an update saying that he hoped to have his final report completed by the next Task Force meeting and that Danna Truslow was in the process for finalizing her report as well.
- Chuck Dam reviewed a map of the water mains and how old they are throughout the Town and pointed out which ones have been replaced. Chuck noted that at the current pace for pipe replacement it will take 25-40 years to replace all the oldest pipe. He will distribute an updated water main map. Scott Horsley noted that water main replacement would also improve unaccounted for water loss and that the approach the DPW was taking to target certain areas for

pipe replacement was a good one. Ron Mastrogiacomo asked about how the new development in the LDC by Cell Signaling Technologies would impact water main installation and replacement. Chuck said CST wants to extend the pipe from Forest St as well as extend and increase (8" to 12") the pipe from Mill St.

- Chuck also discussed new meters and said that the biggest difference between the various types of meters available today was user friendliness (easy to use apps, proactive notifications, etc). These types of meters tend to be more expensive. Chuck suggested that volunteers from the Task Force could try out different types of meters in an effort to decide the best meter for the Town to rollout to all accounts. The Town needs to update to AMI meters and this will likely happen in FY25. Chuck mentioned that he has experience with these types of projects and is familiar with several vendors. Currently, the DPW buys about 100 new meters every year. Gordon Turner asked who would be responsible for the plumbing aspect of the water meter replacement. Chuck said that on a small scale that the DPW folks could handle it but not on a large-scale rollout. That would need to be handled by the vendor. Steve Gang noted that the interruption to homeowners for meter replacement would be minimal. Chuck and Sue Croft will work together to get meter demos scheduled with several vendors.
- Gordon Turner from Team 4 walked attendees through the draft of the final report from the Contaminants group. This draft had previously been sent out to all Task Force members and the team is looking for feedback. The document highlights the work they have done as well as their recommendations. Chuck is under the impression that new EPA regulations for PFAS will be coming out in March and will take two of the six primary PFAS down from 20 ppt to 10 ppt. Currently the Town is above 10 ppt for both of those two at the LSW and at about seven at Gravelly Pond. Randi Augustine asked if the DPW had considered blending the two sources (LSW and GP). Chuck said that they are considering this possibility which would include piping the water directly to WTP where they could install a robust treatment system at the WTP if need be. He also noted that more research needed to be done in this area. Scott asked what the levels were at the Round Pond well. Chuck said that the RPW was at about three. While Gordon was reviewing a map of the area around the elementary school, Chuck mentioned that the stormwater outfalls in that area are still in the same places post-construction. A question was asked about whether or not the team looked into stormwater runoff from 128 into Sawmill Brook. Jessica Lamothe pointed out that the Stream Team had tried to address this issue with the state 10 or so years ago and that they were not able to make any progress. Steve gave a brief update on the status of potential paving of Chebacco Rd in Hamilton and that after an appeal by Hamilton residents, that they may not pave the section closest to Gravelly Pond. Peter Colarusso asked if nitrogen was a problem. Scott said that nitrogen levels are low and that most if not all residents in the LSW area would be on sewer not septic systems.
- There was no further update regarding the funding recommendations for the FY24 budget. Steve reminded everyone that the Task Force had requested \$75k for next year's budget and John Round noted that the Task Force should be prepared to prioritize their recommendations in case that was not the amount that we would be in the final budget.
- The minutes from Jan 25 meeting were unanimously approved.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wed Mar 8 at 7:00 PM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.