



Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

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

Board/Committee: Water Resources Protection Task Force

Day & Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

Attendees: Steve Gang, Jeff Cochand, Olga Hayes, Sarah Creighton, Helen Bethell, Nate Desrosiers, Chuck Dam, John Round, Sue Croft, Scott Horsley, Tom Kehoe, Mike Carvalho, Francie Caudill, Erika Brown, Randi Augustine, Lynn Atkinson, David Lumsden, Jessica Lamothe

MINUTES

- Steve Gang called the meeting to order. There were no announcements.
- Scott Horsley reviewed his draft Source Water Protection Plan. That presentation can be found [HERE](#).
- Steve asked Scott for an update on Dave Nelson’s offer to check the PFAS “fingerprint” from our LSW against characteristics from PFAS found in artificial turf. Scott reported that Dave found the results inconclusive. A question was raised about testing of the new artificial turf to be used in Hyland and Coach fields, since a polymeric PFAS is used as a processing aid in manufacturing artificial turf. Steve replied that ConCom has required that a third-party lab test the specific turf, infill and shock pad for PFAS prior to work on the fields this summer. The consultant Gale Associates has promised that the presence of PFAS in these materials will be below detectable levels.
- John Round gave an update regarding the ongoing work with Raftelis. Raftelis will review the proposed rate models and give recommendations including rate structures. This approach may be staggered as it is rolled out to the Town. John expects that Raftelis will have this work completed with a month or so.
- Steve asked Jeff Cochand to give an update on the meeting that was held on 3/6 with water meter vendor Stiles and their Badger Meters. Jeff explained that the Town currently must drive around with a radio receiver to collect water meter readings and that the next generation of technology uses cellular service to collect data centrally without any further infrastructure. Steve mentioned that a cellular signal from the meters is similar to the amount of data used to send a text. Stiles showed attendees two different types of meters (mechanical and ultrasonic) and then demonstrated the software both from the Town and the homeowner/user perspective. Jeff thought the ultrasonic product seemed robust and estimated a final cost of around \$500 per meter. Stiles also offers a starter package of 10-12 meters for people in Town to trial, which could be an excellent next step.

The cost of that is about \$2500. Steve suggested that we meet with one or two other vendors for comparison and to allow for an informed decision.

- Steve reviewed the draft Executive Summary that he and Working Teams 1 & 6 have developed. He noted that he needs to add Scott Horsley's recommendations to this summary. Steve is looking for feedback from the Task Force on this document.
- With regards to funding for FY24, Steve asked John Round if he had any insight into where we stand on the budget line item for ongoing Water Resources Protection. John noted that the Task Force had recommended \$75k and the amount that made it into the proposed budget for the ATM was \$30k.
- David Lumsden discussed information that he came across having to do with potential contamination from the use of lead bullets at the Hamilton Wenham Rod and Gun Club. The white paper that David will share with the Contaminants group, discussed the issue of lead leaching into groundwater from spent bullets at firing ranges and the like and can get into ground water. The Town's Police Dept no longer uses lead bullets and testing of lead levels at both the LSW and WTP show no signs currently of high levels of lead.
- Steve discussed the latest version of the Citizen's Survey that he created to poll Manchester residents about drinking water. This survey is designed to collect information to help communicate with the public and also to increase awareness and interest in our drinking water issues. This version is more concise than the original survey he put together back in the Fall. Feedback on the survey included that it would be useful to give people more information, specifically sharing briefly the Task Force findings on the key issues raised in the survey questions. Once the survey is vetted by the Select Board, it will be publicized on the Town website, in social media and through cards distributed at the ATM.
- Steve informed attendees that the Town of Hamilton has filed an amended plan with the State DEP, revising its approach to paving Chebacco Road by leaving only a small section on the road closest to Gravelly Pond unpaved. Steve found this approach unconvincing and inconsistent with protecting our watershed and neighboring wetlands. As before, this issue highlights the continued need for collaboration among elected officials of Manchester and our neighboring towns.
- Steve identified three small changes to the meeting minutes from the 2/15 meeting. The amended minutes from that meeting were unanimously approved.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 29 at 7:00 PM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.