



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, June 14, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

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

MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. There were no announcements.
- Steve reviewed the Final Report of Findings and Recommendations (final draft) that had been previously circulated to Task Force (TF) members via email. During Steve’s walkthrough of the document there were a series of questions and comments made:
 - Helen Bethell pointed out that collaboration with other adjacent towns has not happened and that it is imperative to do so at this time.
 - Steve reminded Task force members that they can join the Sustainability Committee (SC) to help oversee the implementation of these recommendations once approved by the Select Board (SB) under the purview of the SC through 3 new positions.
 - Jessica Lamothe noted the importance of having the DPW and Select Board involved with decisions associated with future phases of water rate increases. Along these lines, Steve pointed out that one of the positions on the SC would be to keep the SB informed of the progress being made with implementing the TF recommendations. John Round further noted that it will be the responsibility of the SC to track usage and help guide the SB decisions on future rate changes.
 - John Round indicated that he believes the SB will approve the proposed Phase 1 water rates.
- Steve then proceeded to review the proposed letter to “heavy users” as we reached that reference point in the final draft document.
- Feedback from Scott Horsley confirmed that Sodium Chloride cannot be remediated and therefore the reference was removed from the final draft.
- Steve then reviewed the priorities of the recommendations. Feedback and questions followed:
 - Ron Mastrogiacomo asked Steve to explain the process to expand the overlay district. Steve said it would require a bylaw change that would need approval at Town Meeting. Ron then

asked if there would be a peer review process prior to bringing the bylaw change to a Town Meeting vote. Steve suggested that perhaps Scott Horsley could provide that service.

- Scott pointed out that during his involvement with this TF over the past year there have been proposed projects that could have negative impacts on our watershed (e.g. 133 Essex St in Hamilton and paving portion of Chebacco Rd). Given that, it will be important to keep on top of upcoming projects and their impact on the watershed. Steve added that it will be very important to keep an eye on Gordon College's plans for expansion.
- Steve noted the importance of the Town Depts and Committees to align with the same depts and committees in adjacent towns to build relationships and work together to protect our watershed.
- Randi Augustine suggested that the MEPA process be considered as part of the final report.
- Steve mentioned the tension between MBTS and Hamilton due to MBTS voting down the relocation of Chebacco Road.
- Scott mentioned his current work with Provincetown and Truro and how it would be an example MBTS could use to work with Hamilton.
- A motion to approve and present the final draft and associated letter was presented and seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous. Steve noted that this final draft will be presented to both the SB and FinCom on Tues June 20.
- Steve wanted to discuss possible uses of the remaining \$63k in Task Force funds. He ultimately presented five options:
 1. Monitoring wells estimated at about \$20k
 2. Seed money to begin collaboration with Hamilton on initial planning for improved conditions at both landfills. The money could be used to pay for experts on this topic and provide guidance to both towns working together.
 3. Assess the feasibility of using Round Pond well #2 as an additional water source/production well. Initial assessment would just determine if this well is even usable or could produce enough water (est. cost likely a min of \$10k).
 4. Subsidize the cost of more residential meters during pilot phase (est. cost \$5-10k).
 5. Hire Raftelis to provide guidance with regards to the rate structure for future rate increases.
- There was much discussion surrounding these options:
 - With regards to the monitoring wells, it was said that Hamilton would be responsible for remediation if contaminants are found. There is a benefit to using the wells just to further identify groundwater flows, but most agreed that it was a lot of money to spend to only provide that data. Hamilton does have LSP's and monitoring for their landfill currently. It is imperative that MBTS think about the repercussions of moving forward with monitoring wells. It was noted that robust PFAS treatment would negate the need to monitor landfills. The exceptions would be to help identify any new contaminants in the future and to identify cost share of remediation. There is the possibility of monitoring for precursors only.
 - With regards to seed money for collaboration with Hamilton, it was suggested that the approach be to create a joint water resources management coalition that eventually addresses the landfill concerns as part of the overall effort. Some believed that money wasn't required to get any discussion going with Hamilton. Another suggestion was to approach Bruce Tarr's office and ask him to convene a group across multiple towns to

address these concerns. It was noted that PFAS regulations are still in flux and will likely keep changing for the near future and that MBTS needs to keep all options open.

- With regards to Round Pond well #2, it was said that although this could be challenging to address with the state in the near future, it may make sense to check the well functionality and output to see if it is even an option as a future production well.
- The minimal work that has been done by Raftelis so far concluded that our proposed Phase 1 rates looked fine but that the Town should not expect to see much of a change in usage using these rates.
- Of the five options presented, most attendees agreed options 3 and 4 were the most promising.
- The minutes from the May 24th meeting were unanimously approved.
- The final Task Force meeting will be held Wed July 19th at 7:00 PM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.