



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, February 2, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

Attendees: Steve Gang, Helen Bethell, Peter Colarusso, Chuck Dam, Nate Derosiers, Sue Brown, Erika Brown, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- **Review current LSW PFA status if available**

Chuck Dam gave the Task Force information on how the PFAS testing got started and an update on the current situation. LSW is currently just below the MA DEP PFAS MCL (maximum contaminant level) of 20 parts per trillion (which Chuck likened to a single grain of sand in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools). Due to this measurement, MA DEP requires the LSW be tested monthly. The water treatment plant (which for testing purposes includes both Gravelly and Round Ponds) has low PFA levels and therefore is only being tested quarterly. The Town has hired a consultant to assist with addressing the issue at the LSW. This consultant is working on a conceptual level design to address the issue and provide options and potential costs for various approaches. It is currently unknown why the LSW has not only high PFA levels but is also unstable and increasing. There were two types of treatment discussed that could effectively treat the water. The first being granular activated carbon and the second reverse osmosis. It was asked what we do with the spent PFAS media when it has reached the end of its life cycle and can no longer treat the PFAS in the water. It was noted that MA DEP has not provided much guidance in the area of spent media disposal. Answer: The Town would need to find ways to incinerate the filtered PFAs. More research needs to be done in all areas, but the Town is doing everything possible address this issue.

- **Update regarding Task Force members – two potential At-Large members in the works last week – any additional members in the cue? – Select Board to choose 6 At Large members at their Feb 7 meeting**

According to the Town Administrator, the Selectboard has received 5 or 6 volunteer applications for the open At-Large advisory positions. At least one who is believed to have expertise in this topic.

- **Update regarding WRPTF Webpage**

The webpage for the Task Force is now complete. It will be updated once we know who the new At-Large members are.

- **Report from conversation with Senator Tarr regarding North Shore Water Resilience project**

Several members of the Task Force met this week via Zoom with Senator Tarr to talk about water protection and resiliency. Some of the topics addressed were:

- Potential for increased regional approach – It was noted during today’s discussion, will be challenging with each town having small and fairly incompatible water systems. Also noted was the fact that this is still an important approach (regionalization) given that watersheds are not confined by town boundaries. It was also mentioned that Hamilton has received a grant from the DEP to look at neighboring towns for water supply and although our water supply will likely sustain MBTS, it is unlikely that we would be able to provide water to other towns.
- Recharge Challenges – noted today was the fact that often water that is used from watersheds ends up in wastewater system that empty into the ocean (in our case, the outfall extends out of the harbor just short of Misery Island) and thereby do not recharge the watershed. There was discussion about how the Town has done studies that touched on the subject but primarily focused on the option of pumping our wastewater to Beverly or Gloucester which does not address groundwater recharge and were cost prohibitive at the time. Groundwater recharge requires specific soil/subsurface conditions that can accept the recharge; it was noted that Manchester generally has high groundwater and lots of ledge which are not conducive to groundwater recharge.
- Funding Sources – the Senator during our meeting on Mon pointed us toward several funding sources which will be reviewed by the Task Force. Apparently, there is new federal funding coming down the pipeline that the State will have access to.

- **Discuss risks to watershed from development proposed at 133 Essex Street, Hamilton**

Steve Gang participated in Hamilton’s recent Town Planning meeting where this new development was being considered. It appears to be highly contested by residents due to watershed concerns. More research is needed and has been requested to address public concerns about the impact of this development on the watershed (including the 7 months of blasting that will apparently be required). Members of the Task Force have requested to Hamilton that MBTS be more involved in the decision-making going forward. Opponents to this development have hired engineers to study the impact on the watershed.

- **Review rough draft Citizens Survey**

Although we were unable to review a draft of this as it was not available during today’s meeting, we did review the purpose of the survey which is to gauge MBTS residents’ knowledge and concern about water-related issues. Additionally, the Task Force was hoping to generate some interest from residents with regards to water.

- **Kick-off meeting status update:**

- **Date** – there is a Doodle Survey being circulated to gather availability from Task Force members to find a date that works best for most.
- **Agenda** – the agenda will cover expectations of Task Force members, identify roles and responsibilities, outline the goals of the task force, identify how often to meet, etc.

- **Background preparation items update:**
 - **Required reading** – The Task Force has a running list of documents stored in a Dropbox location. We need to prioritize the documentation and identify how to distribute it.
 - **Facilities tours** – Planning for these is underway. Will firm up once we have the At-Large members secured and the Kick-off meeting scheduled. Also, to be scheduled are nature walks in the watershed areas (when it's warmer) for the public to educate and engage public interest.
 - **SME presentations** – Planning for these is also underway. Waiting again for At-Large members and Kick-off.
- **Other items not reasonably anticipated when this agenda was written** – Those Task Force members present at this meeting who were also present at the previous meeting voted to approve the meeting minutes from Jan 26th.