



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: Thursday May 12

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

Attendees: Steve Gang, Scott Horsley, Tom Kehoe, Olga Hayes, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Peter Colarusso, Chuck Dam, Helen Bethell, Jeff Cochand, Jessica Lamothe, John Round, Francie Caudill, Lynn Atkinson, Gordon Turner, Nate Desrosiers, Mike Carvalho, Joe Sabella, Ann Harrison, Fred Wales, Ashley Ochs, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed attendees. Announcements included that the hike led by Jeff Cochand around Gravelly Pond on Sun 5/8 was a success and that the budget of \$80k for the Task Force was approved during Town Meeting on 4/25. Steve then introduced Scott Horsley.
- Monitoring Wells – Scott Horsley gave an update on the status of the monitoring wells that are being identified/installed near Shingle Hill and to the south toward the LSW to further document material and water level gradients/where the groundwater flows. The first well has been installed on Town land near the Shingle Hill site. Also, a pressure transducer was added to an old existing well used by Gloucester for emergency drinking water in the 1960s located alongside Sawmill Brook and Old School Street. The sites for the wells were chosen because the hydrologic divide is south of route 128 and wells in this area will allow Scott to confirm a southerly subsurface flow toward the LSW from Cedar Swamp. Other sites have been specified along Hidden Ledge Road and in the Essex County Club but not yet drilled to define groundwater flow around and into Gravelly Pond. Scott suggested putting borings around the shoreline of the pond and using a temperature measurement (summer and/or winter) to determine groundwater flow. Scott's presentation can be found [HERE](#).
- Cybersecurity – Nate Desrosiers and Chuck Dam gave a brief summary of the meeting they had with Woodard & Curran to answer cybersecurity questions that were raised via email by members of the Task Force. W&C are on the leading edge of cybersecurity and the DPW believes that W&C have done everything possible to protect the WTP/LSW from a cyber-attack. Chuck also pointed out that the systems at the WTP could be switched to local only mode in the event of an emergency.

- Flyer for June 11 Special Town Meeting – Alan Wilson said we could distribute a handout. He will need to approve the handout itself. Steve showed everyone a draft of the handout and said he would email it to the Task Force for review.
- Working Group Updates:
 - Group 1 (Usage & Demand) – Steve Gang and Jeff Cochand gave an update on Group 1’s progress. They have been reviewing the 2021 usage data provided by the Water Dept. Usage varies considerably by household/season with an overall 40-45% increase in the summer months. There were questions about the extent of leaks and Nate reported that the Water Dept looks for leakage through the billing process and by using active leak detection on pipes/valves. In contrast to over-reporting from leaks, Chuck noted that old/faulty meters tend to under report usage. Meters at the WTP were recently replaced and it is expected that will highlight changes in usage over time when compared annually. Alternatives to banning/restricting water consumption, should we need to, were discussed – an example given was utilizing rainwater for irrigation. The group reviewed information of gray water usage but that would require expensive retrofit of existing home plumbing systems. GreenScapes Cape Ann was mentioned (Chuck reported that MBTS is a GreenScapes community) which educates on landscaping and maintenance alternatives to high irrigation residential plantings. Jeff and Steve also showed graphics depicting ways to control runoff for irrigation purposes. Drawings/pictures included curb cuts, speed bumps, sidewalk grades higher than planting beds, and more. Scott H noted that he is involved in a current project to do this in NYC. Group 1’s presentation can be found [HERE](#).
 - Group 4 (Quality & Contaminants) – Gordon Turner gave a comprehensive presentation on Group 4’s progress thus far. That presentation can be found [HERE](#). Group 4 used data from the Dept of Energy and Environmental Affairs to analyze and plot various contaminants. Sodium in our water system is high and there was discussion about why that is and what can be done about it. It was noted that monitoring wells exist around the MBTS transfer station (former dump) and that samples are taken regularly to check PFAS (and other) contaminants. Questions were raised about Hamilton’s analogous monitoring around their capped landfill which sits across Chebacco Road from Gravelly Pond. Discussion topics during the presentation included why certain addresses were singled out as part of the EEA data and it was suggested that certain addresses at the ends of the water system would likely need to be identified and others may have private wells (in addition to being on Town water) that would likely be looked at separately. The final topic addressed during the discussion of Quality and Contaminants revolved around potential new Board of Health regulations. According to Steve Gang and Peter Colarusso, the BOH began reviewing potential new and stricter regulations in Nov 2021 but then postponed its consideration to let the Task Force get up and running. These regulations address protecting drinking water within the overlay districts via an Environmental Health Review and Permit. Steve will circulate or post these new potential regulations for the Task Force to review before the next meeting, at which time the Task Force will consider whether there is any reason to ask the Board of Health to further postpone their consideration of these proposed Regs.

- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Next Task Force Meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday June 1st 7:00-8:30
 - Update for BoS – Tentative Date July 5 or if necessary (as fireworks rain date is 7/5) then July 18
- Proposed Consulting Contract with Scott Horsley – No vote was taken as the Task Force would like to have the opportunity to review Scott’s proposal. Sue Croft will email the group for review.
- Vote on Previous Minutes from 4/28 Meeting – with two minor changes identified and acknowledged, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- Other items – It was noted that in addition to distributing a handout at the STM, that the Task Force should send the handout via mail to residents. Sue Croft will investigate potentially including the flyer with either the Town tax or water bills.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.