



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 1
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: VIRTUAL
Signature: Sue Croft
Attendees: Steve Gang, Olga Hayes, Peter Colarusso, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Scott Horsley, David Lumsden, John Round, Gordon Turner, Sue Brown, Jeff Cochand, Fred Wales, Nate Desrosiers, Chuck Dam, Randi Augustine, Jessica Lamothe, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.
- After confirming that all members had received Scott Horsley's work proposal and what the vote would entail, a motion was presented to have the Task Force engage Scott Horsley as a consultant to the Task Force at a rate of \$200/hour through 7/31/22. The motion was seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously passed.
- Even though the STM was postponed from June 11 to a date yet to be determined (probably late June), members agreed to have a handout at that meeting. It was discussed that since the water bills had already gone out that Sue Croft would look into the possibility of including the flyer in the next quarterly tax bill in addition to the STM handout.
- Peter Colarusso discussed some of the proposed BoH regulation updates highlighting regulation 4.2 as one that the BoH had questions and concerns about given that it is inconsistent with other policies. Peter said the BoH appreciates that the Task Force is vetting these new recommendations and looks forward to our feedback. Steve Gang urged all task force members to review these proposed regulations and make recommendations. Steve would also like the Task Force to potentially vote on these regulations and share those results with the BoH.
- Scott Horsley presented to the Task Force regarding the Gravelly Pond Watershed area including Essex St development and paving Chebacco Road. This presentation can be found [HERE](#). Scott's presentation addressed the question on whether the Town needed additional protection areas beyond the ones currently defined. He discussed the dynamic flow around Gravelly Pond due to well pumping in Hamilton and Scott believes that the original 1990 watershed delineation may not be sufficient. Scott would like to amend the maps into Hamilton and Essex and expand the watershed area. Stream flows through the 133 Essex St property into Beck Pond which is subsequently connected to Round Pond through subsurface filtration under pumping conditions. To further identify groundwater flows for Gravelly and Round Ponds, it's possible to collect temperature data

around the perimeter of both ponds using shallow wells. Since groundwater stays the same temperature year-round, installing wells in the late fall early winter allows for disparity in the monitoring well temps around the ponds therefore identifying which side of the pond(s) the water flows toward. Paving of Chebacco Road is moving forward. In Scott's opinion there has not been enough due diligence surrounding this project especially since the level of service will increase – paved road = more traffic = higher pollutants + higher potential for spills. Scott showed data surrounding the likely increase of lead, copper, and zinc. He also expressed concern for stormwater runoff and the lack of a comprehensive plan to manage it. Hamilton ConCom held a meeting last week. Several Task Force members attended and provided updates to the group. Steve Gang requested a 2-week continuance that was denied. John Round mentioned that Hamilton stated that they would lose money if the project didn't start by a specific date. Hamilton is non-committal to several aspects of the project including stormwater management, road salt, limiting the size of vehicles that use the road and a doing a traffic study. Chuck Dam mentioned that moving the road is unlikely at this point without involving lawyers and that additional state approval which could take months or even years would still be required. He also noted that on the Manchester side we would not pave and would have weight limit restrictions to curb the level of service on the road. Finally, Chuck said that the current conditions of the road are not ideal for a watershed area considering the amount of dust and the periodic grading that happens using large grading trucks. Steve mentioned that a group of 10 abutters at 133 Essex St in Hamilton are planning to appeal the DEP order and would like MBTS to join forces in filing a lawsuit. This is a decision for the Select Board. The Town Administrator is reluctant to join in the lawsuit as this will hinder the Town's ability to collaborate with Hamilton on future water resource protection issues. It was noted that Hamilton may not be compliant with state wetlands regulations or potentially even their own Town Bylaws. Nate pointed out that given the bond/fixed cost estimates that Hamilton got for the project may not take into consideration cost increases especially the high cost of oil and other materials right now.

- The PFAS discussion started with an update from Gordon Turner of the Contaminants Team. Gordon stated that the team had more questions than answers about PFAS and the team's role in addressing the problem. Some of the questions included: How does one identify potential sources of PFAS (ex: artificial turf fields which are in close proximity to the LSW)? Why are the split samples so different and why is one consistently higher than the other? A discussion around these questions revealed that MBTS already does a lot of testing (wells, transfer station, raw water at Gravelly and Round Pond). Testing of both water and soil can be done to help identify potential sources but there's cost associated with testing (MBTS pays \$300 per test per sample) and possible cross contamination. Nate Desrosiers mentioned that the LSW results recently flipped meaning that the lab that had traditionally been reporting higher results is now reporting the lower results and visa versa. This could just be noise in the testing process as there is no correlation found between anything and these variable test results. Gordon asked if his group could get more data from the testing companies and Nate said they would send the full reports to the Contaminants group. Chuck explained the testing process using the split samples for LSW. Testing is done monthly, and quarterly averages of both samples are reviewed by the state to determine compliance. Testing is still done only quarterly at the WTP since the results there are below 10. It was also noted that PFAS was recently found in brake pads and synthetic motor oil.

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 15th from 7:00-8:30.
- The Task Force still plans to attend the July 5th Select Board meeting to provide an update.
- The vote to approve the meeting minutes from the May 12th meeting was unanimous.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.