



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 15
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: VIRTUAL
Signature: Sue Croft
Attendees: Steve Gang, Scott Horsley, Ashley Ochs, Joe Sabella, Olga Hayes, Fred Wales, Peter Colarusso, Ann Harrison, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Jeff Cochand, John Round, Jessica Lamothe, Frances Caudill, Sue Brown, Ron Parker, David Lumsden, Lynn Atkinson, Randi Augustine, Gordon Turner, Mike Carvalho, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. There were no announcements.
- Discussion of Recommended New BoH Regulations (from MECT) – Peter Colarusso introduced the proposed regulations, what the BoH was hoping to glean from the Task Force, and a bit of background on how these proposed regulations came to be. Feedback on the proposed regs began with a comment that a \$300 fine was inconsequential. There was discussion about a potential tiered structure of fines/punishment, but all agreed that violations needed to be reviewed further. Another comment had to do with the focus of these regs on large projects especially earth moving and blasting. It was noted that further standards/processes/detail and description would be beneficial through these regs but especially with regards to large projects. There was a question as to how blasting and excavating affect contamination and Scott Horsley clarified that blasting could change fractured bedrock and can impact flow direction. Depth of groundwater can be affected by excavating. Other concerns surrounded lack of understanding as to how significant the changes being recommended were and what other towns are doing along these lines. Some attendees thought of these proposed BoH regs as complementary to expanding the overlay district and adding an aquifer protection district. Peter C cautioned everyone to keep in mind that the BoH only has the authority to prevent contamination of water. They have no jurisdiction when it come to bylaws regarding overlay or aquifer districts. It was asked how/who would interpret the hydrological reports referenced in the proposed BoH regs? Peter explained that an outside contractor is and would continue to be used to review developments/plans and compare to state regulations then make recommendations to the BoH. It was asked why exemptions are made for single family residences. Scott H clarified that there is a burden of effort and high cost associated with these types of studies that would prevent single family residences from providing and also that smaller projects have less impact. It is common for this type of exemption to be made. However, it was suggested that a performance standard be used instead of commercial/industrial versus residential

comparison given the impact of large single-family homes in Manchester. An area of disruption approach could prove more effective. The proposed regs mentions buildings (not specifically single-family residences) of 7500 sf or more that would need to comply with the regs. It was recommended that an engineering/consistency review be performed for these proposed regs prior to any acceptance especially given that these are mostly new regulations. The next steps were determined to be as follows; first, the Task Force collects feedback from the group as a whole and provides that to the BoH to incorporate as they choose into the proposed regs; next, the BoH will have their engineering firm review the regs; then the BoH will bring to DEP drinking water expert (contact info provided by Randi Augustine) for review; then BoH presents to the Select Board; finally, the BoH schedules a public hearing.

- Update on 133 Essex St Project and Chebacco Road Paving Project – Scott H showed attendees some maps of the area surrounding the 133 Essex St site and highlighted groundwater flows including wetlands, streams, and tributaries all of which connect to Beck Pond which connects to Round Pond and all of which are upstream from our water supply. The three primary points Scott made was that this project in Hamilton will very likely impact Manchester’s water supply and potentially at least one of Hamilton’s own wells as well. The second was that Hamilton is very likely not in compliance with their own Groundwater Protection District bylaws given that this development at 133 Essex St appears to exceed their own density restrictions. Finally, Scott recommends that more extensive hydrologic survey/investigation be done before this project moves forward. With regards to the paving project, Hamilton’s original Order of Conditions expired and therefore cannot be amended. Hamilton will need to start over with a new Notice of Intent. This, combined with state reviews that are currently underway to address conflicting regulations specific to this project, predicts that it will take several months to get back where they started and there’s a good chance they will lose their bond financing in the meantime. All these factors work to Manchester’s advantage as it will likely need to be voted on again.
- Flyer/Community Outreach/Survey Next Steps – this agenda item was passed over due to time constraints
- Working Group Updates:
 - Group 3 (Effects of Climate Change) – Ron Parker gave a brief update on this team’s findings so far. They are looking at the impacts/effects of drought on Gravelly and Round Ponds, saltwater intrusion at the LSW and sea level/temperature rise. Currently, they are looking only at existing water sources not potential future sources.
 - Group 6 – passed over due to the absence of a key contributor and time constraints
- Schedules:
 - Next meeting will be scheduled for Wed 6/29 at 7:00 PM. Meetings will continue on this schedule going forward until meetings drop down to monthly (TBD).
 - Update for Select Board (Tentative Date July 5). Steve Gang and Sue Croft will work together to compile information to be presented to the Select Board.
- Previous minutes from 6/1 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM