



## Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

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**Board/Committee:** Water Resources Protection Task Force  
**Day & Date:** Wednesday June 29  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** VIRTUAL  
**Signature:** Sue Croft  
**Attendees:** Steve Gang, Tom Kehoe, Ashley Ochs, Sue Brown, Jessica Lamothe, Peter Colarusso, Jeff Cochand, Olga Hayes, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Chuck Dam, Nate Desrosiers, Fred Wales, Joe Sabella, Ann Harrison, Gordon Turner, John Round, Lynn Atkinson, Sue Croft

### MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed all attendees and there were no announcements.
- Update on Hamilton road-paving and development – Hamilton Conservation Commission unanimously voted an Order of Conditions to permit the paving of Chebacco Road, under their local Conservation Bylaw. They had previously voted to approve an amendment to their earlier OC under the State Wetlands Protection Act, and an appeal has been filed by abutters with the DEP concerning that amended OC, which pertains only to the section closest to Gravelly Pond. Becky Jaques plans to reach out to the Hamilton Select Board Chair to discuss options including prohibiting vehicles carrying hazardous materials or above a certain weight, reducing speed limits and eliminating use of road salt.
- Update on EPA and PFAs – There was a recent Health Advisory issued by the EPA regarding PFAS that indicated dangers to health at extremely low levels of exposure. The Health Advisory has caused concern/confusion because it anticipates new standards that may be announced by the EPA and there is currently no technology for measuring such low levels (4 parts per quadrillion) or for treating to those levels. Currently the DPW is following the DEP regulations regarding PFAS testing and finding levels below the current standard of 20 parts per trillion. Chuck Dam believes that this EPA standard would be unrealistic, pointing out that it would cover all PFAS exposure of which drinking water is only a fraction (20%). In addition, the standard would cover public drinking water supplies but not bottled water. To date, only some consumer goods containing harmful PFAS have been discontinued (i.e., Teflon pans) and there should be greater focus on identifying and discontinuing items that contain contaminants, in addition to other sources such as drinking water.
- Update on DEP and Wastewater Treatment – Chuck reported that MBTS has been operating for about the last 10 years under a consent order with the DEP and EPA for wastewater treatment including a moratorium on new sewer hookups. The DPW has made a concerted effort over the last five years to meet the milestones set forth by the DEP/EPA to have the consent order and moratorium lifted. These entities recently acknowledged that MBTS has put a lot of work into

meeting these goals and as a result lifted the moratorium. The consent order however remains in place until a current 5-year I & I Plan is finalized (the previous I & I Plan recently expired during the past 5-year initiative). As far as extensions and new hookups, the guidelines in our current Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) must be followed as well. Peter Colarusso noted that the final authority for granting new hookups rests with the Manchester BoH. With regards to determining the potential need/impact of extending the sewer system, the DPW meters the sewer system in the spring to verify the effectiveness of the infrastructure leak detection and remediation that's been/being done to improve the system (i.e., lining pipes) and identify potential future locations for sewer expansion.

- Group 6 Update (Town Responsibilities, Authority and Accountability) – Tom Kehoe gave an update to the Task Force which can be found [HERE](#). There were two comments made in response to Tom's update both having to do with water conservation. The first was to consider asking residents to only water outdoors after 6:00 PM or before 8:00 AM (to minimize daytime evaporation) and the second was to eliminate the foot washing station at the beach. Chuck noted that currently usage level is stable for both water and wastewater and that the DPW is working to get unaccounted for drinking water from 25% to the DEP target maximum of 10%. ("Unaccounted for" is the difference between water leaving the treatment plant and water metered by all users.)
- Group 1 Update (Usage & Demand for Drinking Water) – Steve showed the Task Force a graphic representing the distribution of the Town's residential water usage by account for 2021. Highlights from the data:
  - Half of the total water used by the Town as a whole is consumed by 16%
  - Top 20% of users consume 56% of water
  - Top 10% of users consume 42% of water
  - Top 20 accounts use 12% of water
- It was noted that reducing water usage through conservation will also reduce the revenues paid to the Town which are needed to run the water and wastewater systems. (In fact, that is how rates are set currently.) Some suggestions given to promote conservation were 1) to use a progressive pricing structure with much higher rates 2) differ rates by season or 3) change the policy on deduct meters. Steve also suggested further analysis to determine whether it's best to focus conservation efforts on high usage accounts (10-20% of residences or on the lower-usage majority (80-90%). It was suggested that perhaps the Town implement a rain barrel protocol for outside watering so residents can use rainwater as a fairly inexpensive and simple step toward conservation as Essex and Wenham are currently doing.
- Group 5 Update (Awareness and Engagement) – More is needed with regards to public engagement including distribution of the survey and social media. Jeff Cochand is going to contribute to this work and others are welcomed also.
- Update Regarding Proposed New BoH Regulations – Steve Gang gave a brief history of the how the proposed new BoH regulations came to be and about the BoH request for assistance from the Task Force before proceeding toward their own public hearings and debate. He then explained that a small informal subcommittee had formed to research comparable BoH regulations from other towns, review and suggest revisions to the new proposed regulations. Scott Horsley has been involved as have Ashley Ochs and Mike Carvalho from the Task Force. They have produced a draft that is currently about 33 pages long. During the meeting Steve reviewed a high-level graphic

outlining the overall changes which can be found [HERE](#) and offered to send the full version of the current draft to any Task Force members requesting it (Ann, Gordon, Chuck and Sue Brown did so). A public hearing is tentatively scheduled to review these proposed regs on 7/28. The plan is to give the final draft of the regs back to the BoH to move forward with as they deem necessary. Sue Brown noted that it would be in the Town's best interest to take into consideration the impact these regulations will have on new development/building, affordable housing, and the upcoming Facilities Master Plan. Other members asked about the overlap of some of these regulations with the Zoning Bylaws and regulations of other Boards and Commissions.

- Schedules:
  - Next Task Force Meeting will be scheduled for Wed 7/20 at 7:00 PM – a three week interval since the next ZBA hearing is being held Wed 7/13
  - The Task Force is scheduled to give an update to Select Board on July 5. Steve Gang will attend the SB meeting and give the update. Sue Croft will assist Steve in preparing the presentation.
- Previous minutes from 6/15 meeting were approved.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.