



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 July 20
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: VIRTUAL
Signature: Sue Croft
Attendees: Steve Gang, Jessica Lamothe, Tom Kehoe, Peter Colarusso, Margaret Driscoll, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Nate Derosiers, Fred Wales, John Round, Olga Hayes, Jeff Cochand, Gordon Turner, Alison Anholt-White, Scott Horsley, Helen Bethell, Lynn Atkinson, Ron Parker, David Lumsden, Joe Sabella, Sue Brown, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. There were no announcements.
- July 5 Select Board meeting update – Steve informed attendees that the primary take aways from the SB meeting for the Task Force is that we need to keep them better informed and focus on what the SB originally charged us with. The SB Chair asked that some representation of the Task Force attend their Aug 1 meeting to provide another update. Steve also mentioned that at the July 18th SB meeting where water/sewer rates were discussed and a slight rate increase was voted on (per usual this time of year), it was also discussed that the SB might want to consider changing the rate structure in the interest of drinking water conservation and perhaps the Task Force could assist with that.
- Nate Desrosiers gave an update on PFAS and the Compost Site. Referencing the recent Boston Globe article, Nate explained that the article references a 90,000 tons/yr., 240-acre site. By comparison, when the new site is built out Black Earth will be operating on approximately 2 acres and are approved for 30-tons per week or 1560 tons per year. The existing area on School Street is also 2-3 acres. The article also mentions accepted products such as paper manufacturing by-projects and wastewater sludge. Black Earth does not currently accept these materials. Black Earth does test for PFAS in the current compost, and it is present. The new facility Black Earth intends to build will collect food scraps and do most of the processing within a building. They will be adding air to the compost piles to make the process happen faster, again within the building. None of the leachate from this process will be going in the storm water or potential ground water. The processed finished compost will go to the top of the landfill. Through existing monitoring wells around the landfill, the Town does PFAS sampling as part of required reporting to DEP for the landfill. PFAS is present in these wells as well. Nate noted that Black Earth is very careful about what they accept and conscientious about their processing. Gordon Turner asked if the Town has regulations regarding what Black Earth can accept and Nate noted that the Town had a clause within the contract with Black Earth giving the SB final approval of what materials can and cannot be accepted at the Town compost site. With regards to wastewater sludge which is currently sent by the Town to a landfill in Central Mass, Nate mentioned a recent study done on Nantucket where PFAS was found at very high levels in compost containing wastewater slug compared to compost that did not contain wastewater

sludge. This may be a potential source of PFAS. It was unknown if paper by-products could also be a potential source of PFAS. It was recommended that the Town consider implementing regulations about acceptable materials allowed at the Town's compost site.

- Steve Gang gave an update about the Hamilton project at 133 Essex St noting that the Hamilton Planning Board has their final public hearing coming up soon. He said that PB has spent the past year weighing the impact of this project on the hydrology (and other factors) of the area and that they have been quite thorough. Hamilton would still like to proceed with paving their portion of Chebacco Rd in the next month or so given that their financing will expire at the end of Aug. There are still outstanding appeals associated with this paving project that need to be resolved if it should proceed.
- Steve discussed how recent coverage in the Cricket regarding drought and water conservation has sparked interest in the Task Force and concerns about water in general. Jeff Cochand commented that beyond the next Cricket articles in the series that Erika Brown plans to publish that the Town has additional good stories to tell with regards to the foresight previous generations of Manchester residents had pertaining to our drinking water supply and the good work that the Town and the Task Force is doing to protect our drinking water supply. Jeff noted that further education for the public would be useful as well (another round of tours of LSW/WTP and information on the amount of conservation land the Town has and about our water sources and watershed).
- Group 2 (Supply and Sources) Update – No update available currently.
- Group 4 (Quality and Contaminants) – Gordon Turner updated attendees that Group 4 continues their research surrounding PFAS, salt and identifying additional hazards that may exist. They have also been working on an informative public document to educate residents about PFAS. Jessica Lamothe noted that they have scheduled a meeting with the school district to discuss the turf fields, salt use around the school property, and learn more about where the fill came from for both the school construction projects. She also asked Tom Kehoe if he had any historical information regarding the use of firefighting foam. Tom said that they would use it approximately once a year for training purposes and train only the Manchester firefighters. Occasionally they would need it in emergency situations as well. Gordon asked if there was data for PFAS levels anywhere else in Town to help focus where it may be coming from, and Nate said that there are monitoring wells around the old landfill that are monitored for PFAS regularly and contain fairly significant levels of PFAS. He also said that it would be beneficial to track where the runoff goes from the old landfill. Currently Gravelly and Round ponds PFAS levels are well below the state max. Steve mentioned that MECT set up monitoring wells near Cedar Swamp and Scott Horsley noted that those are currently only testing water levels and temperatures. Scott said additional testing for PFAS or other contaminants (including salt given proximity to 128) could be done depending on access. Scott suggested potentially working with the state to identify/reduce impact of salt in our drinking water supply due to road salting on rt 128. Jessica Lamothe said that the Stream Team tried to address this issue with the state about 10 years ago to no avail. It was noted that we should try again. Scott also suggested that the Town consider possibly creating a network of monitoring wells to 1) to better define watershed contributory areas and determine flows 2) test for contaminants (ex. PFAS and salt) and 3) establish a potential early warning system. John Round asked what the cost associated with a monitoring well network would be, and Scott said likely in the six figures. To capitalize on an economy of scale with installing a well network, much thought needs to go into exactly where the wells should be drilled and how many. A project like this would need to be spelled out prior to the Nov timeframe as it would need to be budgeted for and voted on at the ATM in the spring. Randi Augustine noted that PFAS are ubiquitous and that we may never identify a unique source. She also noted that the low threshold of PFAS contamination could trigger a hazardous waste site if the Town starts testing in new areas. These implications are a concern especially in the proximity of private wells (of which there are several around Manchester).

- Steve asked that all working groups establish goals or milestones with associated timelines to help keep SB updated on Task Force progress. He asked that each group send this info to Sue Croft as soon as possible.
- Community Engagement/Survey/Marketing Discussion – Steve noted that Erika Brown’s articles in the Cricket have and will continue to jump start public outreach regarding Task Force work. The next ATM is scheduled for Nov 14th, and we will have an opportunity at that meeting to provide information. Steve said he would still like to gather community feedback using a survey and Jessica Lamothe noted that we should revisit the initial survey that was presented to the Task Force months ago as the information may need to be updated.
- The next Task Force meeting is scheduled a month from now on Wed Aug 17 at 7:00 PM
- The minutes from 6/29 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Other items not reasonably anticipated when this agenda was written – Helen Bethell spoke to the fact that SLV project could have a major negative impact on the Town’s water supply especially with an extension of the water/sewer system to that area. She said it would open up the entire area to further development which would be detrimental to the watershed in that area. Scott mentioned that in the original HW 1990 Report that they included a Buildout Analysis and that this might be a good approach for gathering data to prove out what Helen identified as concerns.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.