

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy, and Water Technician Rob Maloney.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:48pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves. Mr. McCaffrey's microphone was not functioning.

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Orcutt reported minor operational issues with the manganese treatment plant, primarily related to temporary occupancy due to the fire protection panel and minor floor-related problems. He confirmed that these issues did not significantly impact plant operations. Mr. Maloney agreed that the plant could operate without the certificate of occupancy, and that the issues were minor nuisances. Mr. Fishbone asked if the temporary occupancy will expire and Mr. Orcutt said no, but it cannot go on forever. Mr. Orcutt said that we received the semifinal pay requisition, which included punch list items and some retainage release. Mr. Orcutt also noted that the final payment would be for the balance of the retainage and closing out the contract.

Mr. Maloney reported that the water system had saved 80,000 to 100,000 gallons in the first day of operation due to a three-month absence of manganese pumping. This will most likely result in significantly reduced flushing requirements, with the frequency of flushing expected to drop to once a year. Mr. Orcutt added that post-flushing manganese sampling would be conducted in May. Mr. Orcutt also discussed maintaining low chlorine output levels due to the clean water. Mr. Gmeiner asked for an update on dirty water phone calls to the office and Mrs. Croy said there were not any today and she will let him know.

Whitney Pond Well III

Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney Well III was temporarily offline for two to three weeks for flushing, with plans to resume operation and flush five days a week. There will be mandatory PFAS sampling scheduled for June.

Operational Updates

Mrs. Croy informed the board that the Groton Herald had contacted them regarding the new deficit fee. There was mention of some discussion on social media, which may have led to the Herald's inquiry. Mr. Orcutt confirmed that they directed the Groton Herald to their websites for more information, and Mrs. Croy and Mr. Maloney answered the Herald's questions.

Mr. Orcutt announced that there was only one applicant for the Superintendent in Training program, and a meeting was set up with the Town Manager, Human Resources, Chairman McCaffrey, and himself, along with the sole applicant, Rob Maloney. Mr. Maloney's application was to be discussed in detail.

Other Business

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as amended, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory