

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, August 13th, 2024
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

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

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates

Mr. Orcutt said they are still waiting for DEP to approve putting Baddacook back online. Mr. Schmidt is working on the 4-log calculation to submit to DEP. They will then finalize it and give us the calculation for monthly reporting. Mr. Knox is doing backwashes in preparation for sampling and the divers have cleaned it. Mr. Orcutt said the Whitney Treatment plant is working very well. The technicians have increased the Whitney Well III output by 25 gal per minute which has helped the drawdown for Whitney Well I and II. Water consumption steady but not over the top (averaging 16-18 million gpd).

Capital Project Updates

Mr. Orcutt said that the Taylor St project is mobilizing and we are using grant money from the state.

Mr. Orcutt said that GDRHS Water Main Project will go out to bid later this month. The DCR interbasin transfer final decision will be around September 12th. We will be putting it out to bid at risk since DEP is still reviewing plans and specifications. It will take approximately 15-18 months to get water to the High School. This water will be used for both irrigating and drinking. The Groton Water Department will start paying their share (\$1,000,000) once the permanent borrowing is in place. This will be paid out over the life of the permanent bond. There will also be \$1,000,000 from the state for phase 1. Once the water mains are installed, they are pressurized and chlorinated and then we will be flushing the system up there. The High School is a priority and then residents with PFAS will be the next priority.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about recent Service Line Flushing due to new plant. Mr. Orcutt said still adding KOH and chlorine. Mr. Orcutt explained that the chlorine has nothing to bind to because the water is so clean, so it is binding to build up in service lines. Mr. Orcutt said that Lead and copper sampling will be done again in the fall as well as an alkalinity analysis.

Mr. Fishbone asked how long this will be an issue and Mr. Orcutt said it is more of a problem as you get closer to Whitney Pond (Deerfield, Duck Pond, Painted Post) because they are the closest to the source. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there is way to shock the system. Mr. Orcutt said

you can't because you can only put so much chlorine in. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should offer free service line flushing due to this issue. Mr. Orcutt said the short service lines are easy but the longer lines are much more difficult and can take all day.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to waive the Service Line Flush fee for a period of 6 months per service line, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16th as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, Mr. McCaffrey abstained.

Next Meeting September 17th, 2024.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory