

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

October 20, 2016

Carby Street Municipal Office Building, Champagne Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am

Present:

Commissioners: Jim Connors, Chair, Frank MacPherson and Tony Antonellis
Staff: Todd Korchin, Brendan Ryan and Rich Barry
Daniel Bailey (Pierce Atwood LLP)
Bob Rafferty (EPG)

Grove Street residents: Joanna Cook Kjellman, Sheila Dwyer, Andy Mulligan and Amy Rands
Minutes recorded by Tish Healey

Opening Comments

Jim Connors and the Sewer Commission wanted to extend their gratitude to Jeff Bina, Town Engineer, who recently accepted a job at the MWRA. The Sewer Commission has much respect for the service and knowledge that he brought to Westwood and the Department of Public Works. Jim Connors stated that the door is always open for his return. Until the position is filled, Rich Barry will assume many of the Sewer responsibilities with the support of an on-call Engineering Firm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2016 and July 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

A. Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Reduction Project update

Bob Rafferty from Environmental Partners Group (EPG) gave a report of our current I/I project. We are on schedule with our sewer maintenance plan and are ahead of other MWRA Communities with our long term planning. Per Mr. Rafferty, we are in the top three of MWRA communities with the least amount of I/I. Jim Connors stated it is the Commission's objective that we focus on conservation, long term maintenance and cost savings for our residents and not for a comparison to other towns. Frank MacPherson would like a report showing what the cost savings are for the continued I/I. Mr. Rafferty will send a report to Todd Korchin. The expected bid recommendations for the Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Project should be completed within a few weeks.

Jim Connors thanked EPG, Environmental Partners Group, for their work on the current I/I project.

Todd Korchin introduced Brendan Ryan, Public Works Operation Manager, to the Sewer Commission. Brendan is responsible for the Cemetery, Trash and Recycling, and the Highway Division. Brendan has completed the Cemetery expansion project, which is a featured piece in the New England Cemetery Association. Jim Connors welcomed Brendan Ryan.

B. Stormwater

There is a meeting next week with the Neponset River Watershed Association at the Thurston Middle School, on Tuesday 10/25/16. The Commission would like a copy of the presentation. Todd Korchin stated that the Public Works has utilized their operating budget to remain on track with stormwater requirements. But, he needed an additional \$30,000 that was approved by the Town for 2016 requirements. BETA Engineering is working with the Town and will be attending the October 25th meeting. Based on the information received at the meeting next week, we may need to source out additional funds for stormwater maintenance.

C. Schedule next meeting

The next Sewer Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 8:00 am. The meeting will be held in the Champagne Room, 50 Carby Street. *Updated 11/1/16-The December 7, 2016 meeting has been rescheduled due to a member conflict.*

D. Grove Street Sewer

Tony Antonellis declared an outstanding potential conflict pertaining to any Grove Street sewer discussion. The conflict is no longer in question, but he requires a letter from Town Counsel allowing him permission to participate in any conversation regarding Grove Street sewer. Dan Bailey will discuss with Town Counsel. Tony Antonellis exited the Sewer Commission meeting at 8:21 am.

Grove Street (lower) Discussion began at 8:22 am

Todd Korchin gave an update on the Lower Grove Street Sewer Project. While excavating on Summer Street, the Contractor hit ledge along Summer and Grove Street. The sewer pipe was stopped at 314 Grove Street with a manhole installation. The location is approximately 380 feet short of 258 Grove Street. Ledge borings were taken every 250 feet along Summer/Grove Street (standard is every 300 feet). Funds approved at spring 2016 Town Meeting were expended. There is a preliminary cost estimate of a minimum of an additional \$300,000.00 needed to complete the 380 additional feet extension to 258 Grove Street.

Joanna Cook Kjellman would like the Sewer Commission to ask for additional town funds to extend the sewer pipe the additional 380 feet to 258 Grove Street. Sheila Dwyer, a resident of Grove Street, asked whether Grove Street is the only street in town without sewer. Jim Connors stated that 97-98% of the Town is connected to town sewer. Mr. Connors stated that the Town project has gone as far up Grove Street that we can within our current budget. We have expended all town approved funds. Ms. Kjellman feels the work on lower Grove Street should be finished to include the remaining 380 feet along Grove Street. Ms. Kjellman stated that the original plan was for the Developer on Grove Street to help subsidize the original project in 2001.

Andy Mulligan, resident at 314 Grove Street, asked whether the cost estimate could be greater than \$300,000 due to the unknown of ledge on Grove Street. Todd Korchin said that the \$300,000 is an estimate without knowing the amount of ledge they could encounter. Mr. Rafferty stated that 12 borings were done on Grove Street from the lower portion to the upper portion and ledge was detected. Mr. Mulligan asked if street improvement will be delayed. Todd Korchin confirmed that paving for Grove Street is on target to begin spring/ summer 2017.

Mr. Mulligan asked whether he could connect to town sewer from the manhole on Summer Street, and then grant private easements to 304 Grove Street and 258 Grove Street, in order for those properties to connect to sewer on Summer Street. Todd Korchin stated that would be the best scenario. Currently, betterment charges will be assessed to those properties that are located along the new sewer line on Summer Street and up to 314 Grove Street.

Grove Street (upper): Amy Rands (157 Grove Street) is representing her neighbors at 152 Grove Street and 165 Grove Street.

During August 2016, Fed. Corp installed three 1.5" force main pipes on upper Grove Street. These pipes were connected to town-installed stubs. Ms. Rands is petitioning the Sewer Commission to consider paying for half of the cost of the portion of work completed in the public way (trenching and paving). The three homeowners paid approximately \$90,000 for the connection of the force main pipes to town-installed stubs. Ms. Rands estimates that each resident paid approximately \$12,000 to \$13,000 for paving and trenching in the public way.

Dan Bailey stated that these are essentially private lines on Grove Street and that the town cannot use public funds to pay for the construction costs associated with private lines. Dan Bailey will review.

E. Other Business that may come up properly before the Board

1. A Developer is currently outstanding on a sewer connection payment due on October 1, 2016. The sewer department will send a remainder notice for November 1st payment.
2. Follow up with Acura Dealership on proposed sewer connection

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:05 am by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. MacPherson.

Approved:

Date 

10/26/17

Sewer Commission, Clerk