

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020, 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall

Members present: Edward Perkins, Tom Delaney, Bob Hanninen, and Eileen McHugh

Member absent: George Barringer

RICHARD BLOOD EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT EXTENSION

The motion was made by Perkins, seconded by Hanninen, to recommend that the Select Board renew the Earth Removal Permit granted to Richard Blood under the provisions of the Chapter 134 Earth Removal, Section 134-3B Existing Operations. The permit should include the standard conditions as outlined in the attached "Guidelines for Earth Removal Activities Under the Earth Removal By-law, Section IIIA- Existing Operations," adopted by the Board of Selectmen on March 16, 1987.

It should be noted that there has been very little excavation at the site in recent years. Only a modest amount of material is removed from time to time. We have not received any concerns or complaints from abutters or the general public.

The motion passed unanimously.

NESSP TEMPLE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Mahender Singh of the NESSP Temple and William Murray of Places Associates met with the Committee to request a Certificate of Completion for the new Temple located off Boston Road at 99 Shirdi Way.

Mr. Murray said the Conservation Commission issued a Certificate of Compliance and the Planning Board released the performance bond. The Building Commissioner will issue the final occupancy permit (*Note: The Temple has been operating on a temporary occupancy permit*).

Mr. Murray said the soil around the newly installed subsurface stormwater treatment system is not completely stable yet, but the slope is very moderate.

The motion was made by McHugh, seconded by Delaney, to issue a Certificate of Completion for the NESSP Temple and that the Committee will review the stability of the soil in June 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

MS4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

The Committee met with engineer Robert Rafferty of Environmental Partners to discuss possible implementation of a Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund. The creation of such a fund is subject to the vote of Town Meeting and regulations promulgated by the Select Board.

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Mr. Rafferty noted that the Town may consider amending Chapter 198 Stormwater Management of Chapter 154 Illicit Discharge. He provided the Committee with sample Stormwater Utility authorizations from other towns. He also provided a spreadsheet with information from how other communities implemented the program. Mr. Rafferty said it is important to remember that this is a fee and not a tax and there are many ways to calculate fees from a fee per parcel basis or amount of impervious surface basis. He said 95% of Groton is residential with 4140 residential units and 115 commercial units.

Mr. Rafferty said the Town could use the fund to clean streets, vacuum catch basins, test outfalls for water quality compliance, and map drainage catchment areas. No new staff positions will be created under the program.

The Committee discussed various options and decided that the fee per parcel basis is the easiest to implement especially with the high percentage of residential units. The Committee discussed exempting undeveloped parcels only if there is not impervious surface on the parcel.

Mr. Rafferty will prepare the warrant article and fee structure for the Committee's consideration. He will also prepare FAQ's and a PowerPoint presentation for the public hearing to be held on February 4 and 18, 2020. Warrant articles must be submitted to the Town Manager by February 21, 2020.

MINUTES

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019; October 1, 2019; November 5, 2019; and November 19, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector