

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2016 MEETING  
2:00 PM – TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:02 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, and Clerk, Thomas Hartnett. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

**Pressure Transducer Addition Discussion**

After giving a brief update on the reason for purchasing a Pressure Transducer for Partridge Berry Woods as discussed at the last BOSC meeting, Mr. Orcutt reported that it had been ordered. He explained that the previous estimate was 18 months old, so an additional \$60.00 was added to the original pricing to make a total of \$5060.00 for the final cost.

**Discussion of Visual Screening @ Nod Road Pump Station**

Mr. Orcutt updated BOSC that the Green Visual Screening purchased to esthetically improve the Nod Road Pump Station Site for adjacent residents selling their home, was purchased and installed by Pepperell last week. He mentioned that he had driven by the site and that the screening has made an improvement, as intended.

**69 Champney Street – Capacity Discussion**

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt if a bill for the one additional bedroom had been sent to Mr. Croteau for payment. Ms. Iannacone had sent it out to Mr. Croteau. The memo to the Assessor's Office reminding them of the Bedroom Count/Capacity Policy is still being worked on.

**Grinder Pump Discussion**

The collaboratively written letter to Groton Grinder Pump Owners (see attached) was approved by the BOSC and a Mail Merge is underway to ensure letters are sent out next week. Mr. Hartnett questioned the policy of F.R. Mahony on charges for Battery Change Out calls on grinder pumps in an effort to avoid being charged in the case where a question could be answered over the phone. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Gmeiner agreed that it should be investigated. Ms. Stevens will send Mr. Albro of F.R. Mahony an email regarding the issue.

**Public Hearing- 122 Old Ayer Road Sewer Extension @ 2:30 PM**

Mr. Gmeiner, opened the continuance of the Public Hearing; Mr. Orcutt read the Public Hearing Notice for the Record.

Present from the Public were:

Judy Anderson of 270 Whiley Road

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Gary Shepherd representing Indian Hill Music, Inc. of 122 Old Ayer Road

Mr. Gmeiner began with reporting his findings from Town Counsel for questions that were asked at the previous public hearing. To the question of whether or not the current Warrant Article could be amended on the floor of Town Meeting to include another parcel (78 Old Ayer Road) the answer was “no”. However, Town Counsel said that at a *future* Town Meeting, there could be a new Warrant Article presented for a vote to expand the sewer line and include the other parcel. If the current Warrant Article is approved at the upcoming Town Meeting, it stands that new Line from Boston Road to Indian Hill’s Property will remain Indian Hill’s line on Old Ayer Road. There was some discussion between Mr. Shepherd and the BOSC regarding Mr. Shepherd’s question of what would happen if the district eventually does get expanded and who is able to tie in. Mr. Shepherd reiterated his concerns of other parcels wanting to tie in and Indian Hill being liable for unknown mechanics/maintenance issues created by others and/or being *required* to let others tie in. Mr. Gmeiner reminded him that there is limited sewer capacity and if anyone is not in the district, they have no right to sewer unless it is accepted by the Town. Mr. Orcutt mentioned that Town Meeting would probably allow a petition to the Town to extend and go through the process. Mr. Hartnett advised that because the proposed line would be private, Indian Hill should make sure that there is some documentation that says they “own” that line, and nobody gets into that line without their permission. Mr. Shepherd then asked if Indian Hill would require an easement for the new line. Mr. Gmeiner thought that if they have a fee in the road, and were granted an easement, they would own the rights. Mr. Orcutt said he thought the town owned the road, but he would go back and double check. Mr. Gmeiner added that if the Town wanted to use the line in the future, they would have to approach Indian Hill. Mr. Orcutt told Mr. Shepherd that when the line goes by the house they will put a “Y” connection off into the street, so in case of others tying in in the future, they won’t have to cut the line. Mr. Shepherd said he would like to have it fused while it is still clean. Mr. Gmeiner said the BOSC might want to consider an indemnification on it down the road should the “Y” connection blow out. After further discussion, Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Shepherd what his time frame would be. Mr. Shepherd said he was thinking in June or July. The BOSC recommended the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Mr. Orcutt also mention that Mr. Shepherd and he need to talk about what he is looking to do and that he will go to the Fire Department. Mr. Shepherd said that he had already done a flow test. They decided to shoot for a June/July timeframe for water and sewer installation. Mr. Orcutt said he would ensure a map of the discussed parcel be prepared for town meeting in slide form. Mr. Orcutt then made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business** - A brief discussion began between the BOSC and Mr. Shepard with regard to the logistics of the upcoming Town Meeting procedures. Mr. Orcutt explained that the BOSC will read the Article and Indian Hill will do the presentation. Mr. Shepherd asked the BOSC if his presentation could give an indication of the BOSC’s support of the Warrant Article. Mr. Gmeiner responded that they have sewer capacity, there is a need and the extension would not distract from the present District. Mr. Orcutt then made a motion to support the Article. Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday, May 4, 2016 @ 2:30 PM.**

**BILLS SIGNED**

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-16, Expense Warrants (EW-22).

**MINUTES of April 6, 2016** – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Gmeiner seconded with a few contingencies; striking through one sentence and adding 2 names to the Public Hearing Attendees list, Mr. Hartnett abstained, the vote carried by majority.

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM. Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens,  
Water & Sewer Assistant