

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2016 MEETING  
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:35 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, and Clerk, Thomas Hartnett. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

**DEP I&I Plan Discussion**

Mr. Orcutt gave the BOSC a brief update on the status of gathering the necessary information in order to submit the DEP I & I Report which is due December of 2017. He said he had contacted Mr. Rafferty to prepare and submit a report on the BOSC's behalf, and that they are still working on figuring the scope and fee involved. Mr. Orcutt said it would require Mr. Rafferty getting flow data from Pepperell in order to tabulate the numbers. He also said that Pepperell is aware of what needs to be done. In the meantime, the BOSC should ask Pepperell to become familiar with the new technique and remain pro-active in repairing manhole covers.

**Grease @ Partridgeberry Woods**

The BOSC looked over the draft letter submitted by Ms. Stevens. She reported that she checked with Mr. Ira Grossman of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health for their regulations on the proper disposal of grease in sewer systems. Mr. Grossman gave her regulations that only covered grease disposal into septic systems. He told her that the BOSC should have their own regulations with regard to such. Mr. Gmeiner asked that Ms. Stevens email the draft letter to him, and research the regulations of Groton/Pepperell that pertain to large amounts grease disposal in sewer systems. Mr. Hartnett asked how many homes were running off of PBW system. Mr. Orcutt told him that there were 50-60 homes covered in that area. Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Stevens to see if she could locate a bill from Pepperell that contained use and cost of the Jet. Mr. Orcutt gave a brief update regarding properties discussed at the last meeting who were questionable with regard to being hooked up to sewer. His findings were as follows:

#12 & #14 Farmer Row are, in fact, connected to Sewer and are paying customers.

# 2 Farmers Row is not connected, but is in the District (McDonald). Mr. Orcutt needs to check with the NABOH to verify that they are not connected, as they are not receiving a Sewer Bill.

#24 Farmers Row is also connected (Lawrence-yellow house) Mr. Orcutt needs to verify this as they are not getting a sewer bill. Also, he needs to check and see if they are in the Sewer District.

## **20 Station Ave**

Mr. Orcutt gave the BOSC a brief update on the progress of 20 Station Ave, previously the Groton Center Fire Station. He said he met with the McElroy's last week and was informed that there are 2 sewer lines being used there, one for what is to become a restaurant on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, along with the vacant (parking) lot, underneath which will provide drainage and a grease trap. The second line will be used for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, which will become residential space. Mr. Orcutt invited them to come to a future BOSC meeting to inform Pepperell of their sketch plans and # of seats in order to figure flow and capacity allocation. Mr. Gmeiner emphasized their need to come before the BOSC to review that they are in compliance with regulations, including the right sized grease trap.

## **11 Station Ave**

Mr. Orcutt also informed the BOSC of the plans that are in the making for 11 Station Ave, owned by Mr. Webber. He reported that the Blackbird Café, owned by Catherine & Luke Kenney, will be moving out of Mill Run Plaza and will occupy 11 Station Ave. He explained that they will be tearing down a portion of the existing building and putting a parking lot in back of the main building which will become the restaurant. Mr. Gmeiner stated that they will also need to come in and meet with the BOSC to discuss the grease trap issue and allocation of capacity. He asked that a two-year history be calculated from their current location at Mill Run and also a history of their other business, the Tavern, be done as well. He also suggested asking them to come to the next BOSC meeting.

## **37 Longley Road Discussion**

Kristin MacInnis was present update the BOSC on her progress of speaking with abutters of her property with regard to the possibility of connecting to Sewer. She told the BOSC that her neighbor "Andrew" is interested, but needs to know the financials of the situation first. Mr. Orcutt said that he did some investigative work and wished he had better news for her, but after checking with Ira Grossman of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, and Bob Rafferty of Environmental Partners, they all came to the same conclusion that there is shale ledge in the area, 1-2 feet below the surface, including Longley Road, and *directional drilling* cannot be done. He said the only way to do it would be through excavation. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to check with Mr. Rafferty for a rough estimate of the cost per foot to do the necessary excavating. Mrs. MacInnis warned that she was figuring on \$30K doing it the other way and could not afford any surprises in the middle of it. Mr. Orcutt said he would look into getting her a rough cost per foot for excavation and also provide her with a list of local contractors. Mrs. MacInnis then posed the question of whether she should contact the owners of a condemned house on the corner of Breakneck and Longley Roads who are having trouble selling. The BOSC advised against it as they would be a further distance from her property. She then asked if there was a way to "partially directional drill". Mr. Orcutt said a bore machine could be used, but then the cost goes "sky high". The BOSC told her that it would be cheaper for her to have the excavating done privately as the Town would have to charge prevailing wages which would result in a higher cost for her. Mrs. MacInnis asked the BOSC how a *Betterment* works. Mr. Gmeiner explained that it would be as if the Town was the "Bank" and that the Betterment would be calculated over 20 years and interest is only paid on the outstanding

debt. He said it all depends on how the work is done, privately or by the Town. He said by splitting it 3 ways with her neighbors with a private contractor they could save on the cost. Mr. Hartnett added, if the neighbors want to do it later, she could petition the Town for a license, and if and when the neighbors want to connect to her line, they would have to pay her. He also explained that if she could get the neighbors in agreement to have it done by assessment through the town, they would be accessing the Town's ability to borrow the money at a lower rate. The BOSC reminded Mrs. MacInnis that a Town Meeting Vote would be necessary to extend the Sewer District to the last house on a 3-house line. Mrs. MacInnis said she would get estimates this summer from the list of private contractors that the BOSC provided her with. She was told by the BOSC to tell them the excavating would need to be 4 feet deep. Mr. Gmeiner suggested she get prices based from the manhole to the middle of Longley Rd. He also mentioned letting her neighbors know that connecting to Sewer will increase the value of their properties. Mrs. MacInnis said she would go to her neighbors for a potential 3 way split, once she gets estimates. Mr. Orcutt said he would go to Mr. Rafferty for a Design & Install and pricing. Mr. Gmeiner asked that he also consult Mr. Rafferty as to whether the sewer line could hook up from another house, and if Mrs. MacInnis could get an easement to run a line from that house, to hers. He added that Groton has new regulations and because of that, Groton might not let happen what the State might allow in similar circumstances. Mrs. MacInnis asked who she should consult due to wetlands on her driveway. Mr. Gmeiner advised her to go to the Conservation Commission for a permit. He also reminded her of either a late Fall or early Spring timeframe.

#### **Inter-municipal Agreement Discussion**

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that he would be attending the upcoming Joint Meeting with Pepperell Board of Public Works in Pepperell on June 9, @ 7:00 PM, as he thought it was important for him to do so. Mr. Hartnett declined and Mr. Orcutt said he would check his schedule.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday, June 15, 2016 @ 2:30 PM.**

#### **BILLS SIGNED**

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-16, Expense Warrants (EW-25).

**MINUTES of May 18, 2016** – Mr. Hartnett made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens,  
Water & Sewer Assistant

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GSC Minutes 06/01/2016