



Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

## Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street  
Groton MA 01450

**Date:** May 23, 2018

**Time:** 2:00 P.M.

**Location:** Town Hall/First Floor

**Members Present:** Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

**Others Present:** Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager, Bob Rafferty/EPA, Ryan Hall/EPA, Michelle Collette & Anthony L. Saint Hilaire/Groton Therapeutic Massage

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The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 P.M.

### Groton Therapeutics Massage - Capacity

Mr. Orcutt stated that Mr. St. Hilaire was asked to come in before the BOSC because some paperwork had come through for a new service provided "Groton Floats" and there was some concern of the disposal of the salts. The system is a flotation pod that holds 900 lbs of specially formulated salts that is added to 180 gallons of water and does have a micro filter and a UV filter on it. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. St. Hilaire what kind of salt would be used and he replied magnesium sulfate, similar to Epson salt. Mr. St. Hilaire informed the BOSC that the pod is designed to empty once a year and if heavy use may require every 6 months, but once a year is industry standard. Mr. St. Hilaire said there are currently 40 of these in use in Massachusetts and they do not fall under the every 14-day discharge because it is not considered a special pool.

Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. St. Hilaire that his concern is the disposal of the salts into the pipes and if disposal is required every 14-day then that might increase the capacity allocated. Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. St. Hilaire if he is on the BOH Agenda and Mr. St. Hilaire replied that he is waiting to hear from Mr. Grossman. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we get some information from Mr. Joe Jordan of Pepperell and continue this conversation when we get more information

## **Review DEP Infiltration Report & Inflow Analysis and SESS Plan**

Mr. Rafferty informed the BOSC that we need to reply to the DEP by June 1st regarding the report that was done on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He explained there are some small leaks that need repair and we should have time to look at those and he recommend sealing the joints. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there was a way to check to see if there was a lot more dirt in the pipes. Mr. Rafferty believes that if it was significant we would see a sink hole somewhere and he thinks it's the slope and some are leaking beyond the joint and he suggested rehabbing those. Mr. Rafferty said he will finish up the response draft this week.

## **Rocky Hill – Four Corners**

Mr. Orcutt informed the BOSC that Mr. Collins has inquired about another phase of starter homes for over 55 to consist of 12 units for a total of 26-28 bedrooms and would like to connect to town sewer. Mr. Rafferty said with capacity from Ayer there should be enough for 36 units and with Mr. Moultons 24 units being 2-bedrooms each and adding another 12 would be 36 total. Mr. Orcutt asked if we would need permission to approve this project and also asked Mr. Rafferty if we should have the dam management plan amended at the same time. Mr. Rafferty replied that the dam management plan should be done this fiscal year. Mr. Gmeiner informed the BOSC that we put in for an over 55 project when applying for the grant. Mrs. Collette confirmed and said we would not have been eligible for the grant without a housing component. Mr. Gmeiner replied that he would rather two separate articles for town meeting one in the district and the other to be a separate article.

## **Pepperell IMA**

Mr. Gmeiner informed Mr. Bouchard that we are at the end of a 30-year agreement with Pepperell; therefore we are in the process of negotiating a new contract. Under the old agreement we had a joint cost at the treatment plant and we would pay separate bills for the coverage at the pump stations and any extra work. In the past ten years they got out habit of differentiating costs. Now they are proposing a simple formula flow over flow and Groton responsible for 25% of O&M costs. Mr. Bouchard asked what the breakout cost versus flow is over flow. Mr. Gmeiner said Pepperell ran numbers and thinks the concept of flow over flow could be workable, but we would need a breakout of costs. Mr. Orcutt does not feel this option is equalized and feels there system is bigger than Groton's and would feel more comfortable with a lower factor and pay separate for any specialties and not pay 25% of all their O&M costs. Mr. Gmeiner feels that flow over flow would be an acceptable concept, but we need a breakdown of costs and maybe suggest portioning out the collection system.

## **Budget – Fiscal Year 2019**

No discussion at this time.

**Other Business, Bills, Minutes etc.:**

Mrs. Crory informed the BOSC that we have a customer at Groton Residential Gardens who recently received his quarterly bill and the usage was higher than normal. Normally units used are between 5-10 and this quarter was 62 units. It was recommended to him to contact a plumber to check for a leak and one was hired and he found a leaky toilet at the residence. The resident did call requesting assistance from the Water/Sewer Dept. due to being on a fixed income. Mr. Orcutt suggested we bill him at the lowest tier due to the circumstance and install one of the new meters and radio so we can monitor and prevent another prolonged leak in the future.

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to reduce to the lowest tier and would deduct a portion of the plumber cost not to exceed \$200.00 if a receipt was provided, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on June 6th, 2018

**BILLS SIGNED**

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for Expense Warrant 25.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 were approved

**ADJOURN** – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 4:00pm and Mr. Bouchard seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant

**APPROVED:**

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