



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: April 19th, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM

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

Others Virtually Present: Jennifer Morrison/Resident, Matthew Blood/Resident, Richard Blood/Resident, Ann Livezey/Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager and Judy Anderson/Resident

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

169 Hollis Street - Capacity

Ms. Morrison told the BOSC that they recently finished the basement and it has an office/one bedroom and an exercise room. She said the home is currently a 2-bedroom with a living room/kitchen/bathroom. Mr. Gmeiner explained that adding a bedroom according to our current Rules & Regulations, any addition of new building space triggers a new connection fee.

Mr. Gmeiner said the current fee is \$7,500.00 for 330/gpd, so adding a new bedroom to the existing home would be 1/3 of that which is \$2,500.00.

500 Main Street - Groton Farms

Mr. Orcutt suggested we asked them in for a meeting to discuss the project on April 26th, 2023.

Discussion of Adopting System Expansion Policy

Mr. Bouchard stated the purpose of the policy is to accommodate sewer connection requests to satisfy public health requirements and to promote economic development as possible within each district. However, with limited "upside" system capacity, the Sewer Commission has taken the position not to expand the sewer districts.

Effective **April 19, 2023**, the Groton Sewer Commission is instituting the following policies:

- Aggressively monitor and eliminate "inflow and infiltration" in the sewer system so as to reclaim available capacity.
 - Service the needs of the in-district facilities as best possible.
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- Consider sewer district expansion to properties only to service a failed septic system with no economically feasible replacement option.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to Adopt the Sewer District Expansion Policy April 19th, 2023, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt – Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Pepperell IMA

No Updates

201 Boston Road/Lindemer New House

No Updates

Review I&I

Mr. Gmeiner said he is waiting on an update

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

No Updates

220 Main Street (Parish House) – Capacity

No Updates

Expansion Limits

No Updates

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that we will hold a Rate Hearing on May 3rd, 2023 and asked Ms. Crory to get some numbers together to see if there is a need to increase rates for the Center Sewer. Mr. Gmeiner said there is a need for an increase in the Four Corners and Ms. Crory said “yes”. He did ask Ms. Crory to keep an eye on the Engineering bills moving forward.

Ms. Crory said she can check in with Mr. Brinkman to see if he has any idea on the true up number with Pepperell too. Mr. Orcutt said regarding the true up there is no way of telling and we need to watch that. We want to stay ahead of it and we may have to have two hearings this year. Mr. Gmeiner said he feels we may have to pay more at the true up, with the cost of chemicals and electricity etc. Mr. Orcutt said we will also have the credit from the new camera that we can use too.

Mr. Orcutt asked if the expenses have been tracking with the receipts and Ms. Crory replied “yes”. She explained we have a buffer on the line items due to the new structured billing with Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner asked her to keep an eye on the billing for the GDRHS to see if there would be a need to change it.

Commission Reorganization

No discussion

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Gmeiner said there was a comment by the BOA that the comprehensive permit covers everything including water/sewer and that they would give the approval and be in charge of the fees for water/sewer. Mr. Gmeiner said he spoke with Mr. Haddad and that is not his understanding and he would refer to Town Counsel.

Next Meeting – May 3rd, 2023

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES:

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to approve the minutes of March 29th, 2023 amended, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt- Aye and Bouchard - Aye

ADJOURN – *Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 2:25 P.M. Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye Bouchard - Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant