

Groton Sewer Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Sewer Commissioners
Tuesday, June 7th, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jim Gmeiner, Vice Chairman Michael Bouchard, Clerk Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Crory

Mr. Gmeiner called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

78 B Nod Road – Abatement

Mrs. Crory explained the abatement request from 78B Nod Rd. The customer did not have a badger meter and received her quarterly bill which was nearly 5 times the average usage. Our technicians installed a badger meter and the resident found and repaired a toilet leak. Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate the usage to the lowest tier for an abatement of \$554.54, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

205-207 Main Street – Abatement

Mrs. Crory reviewed the abatement request from an account at 205 Main St. The customer received a bill for 588 units where the usage is typical zero due to a vacant property. The customer turned the water off and our technician, Mr. Knox, and Superintendent, Mr. Orcutt, went to inspect the property. Mr. Orcutt explained they could not see the entire basement due to a crawlspace but they are under the assumption there was a pipe issue and the water went into the ground, not down the sewer drain. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to abate 587 units of sewer usage, Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

500 Main Street – Groton Farms

Mr. Gmeiner said the hearing is coming up next week. The notice will need to be read. We can start with our regular number given our interpretation of the regulations. After reviewing regulations and talking to other party the regulations may not be as clear as we thought they were. They are reading them in a sensible way. Mr. Gmeiner could see if there is raw land it makes sense but with existing properties it may make more sense to evaluate the capacity and connection fees this way (as a whole and not separate building spaces). Mr. Orcutt said the key is waiving the building spaces and going to total bedroom count. Mr. Bouchard said we are using the bedroom count and Title V to calculate the fee. Mr. Gmeiner talked to Takashi last Friday on what was being asked by the Board of Appeals' consultant regarding the pump station upgrades and one member of the Board of Appeals wants to make sure the taxpayers are not burdened by this project necessitating pump station upgrades. Mr. Gmeiner wrote an email regarding the

upgrades and that is has been in the plans since 2018 and was going to need to be done soon regardless of any specific projects.

Pepperell IMA

No updates

201 Boston Road/Lindemer New House

No updates

Review I&I

No updates

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow evaluation

There is a meeting on Friday to look over the pump station and start the evaluation. Pepperell and Environmental Partners will be there. Mr. Haddad has signed the contract with Environmental Partners.

220 Main Street (Parish house) – Capacity

Mr. Gmeiner noted that it is going to be put on the market. Mr. Gmeiner said it was being used as offices so they want to do a room count etc. to determine the current use and sewer capacity before the new owners come to the BOSC with a plan. Mr. Orcutt thinks it is currently vacant.

Expansion Limits

No updates

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Mrs. Crory said there are no issues with the budgets and she will bring full end of year reports at the next meeting when Mrs. Livezey is back and QuickBooks is updated. Mrs. Crory asked if Pepperell had bought the camera and Mr. Gmeiner will follow up. Mrs. Crory said if they are not buying it until July 1, they will have their own funds to purchase it. Mr. Gmeiner wants us to bill the high school for their monthly sewer charge through the end of the year.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Orcutt said we need to keep an eye on Pepperell's new sewer rates and how it may affect us.

Next Meeting is June 21st.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 2:43pm, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

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