



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: February 7th, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Clerk/Thomas Orcutt

Others Present: Ed Shaffer/Craft Beer Brewery, Melissa Robbins/Farrell & Robins, Katie Enwright/Howard Stein Hudson, Lauren Croy/Business Manager and Ann Livezey/Assistant

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

195C Main Street – Sewer Capacity

Mr. Shaffer is proposing to operate a small tap room and nano brewery at 195C Main Street. The brewing operation will consist of a total of three barrels. He said this will require water and he estimated 115 gallons per brewing operation and that would be done on the off days. Regular operation will be Wednesday through Sunday for the tap room and they will run the brewery Monday/Tuesday when closed. He is thinking 115 gpd for the brewing process and tap room he is not sure but estimates 150-200 gallon per day. They were thinking 1,000 gallons per week and that includes an occupancy for 20 people. He said they would need additional plumbing because there is a restroom and they will need more drainage for the brewing operation and the bar. The owner of the building is aware of the separate meter requirements and the change of use fee. Mr. Orcutt asked how many patrons and Mr. Shaffer said they have been approved for an occupancy of 20 and 3-5 employees. He said at the start maybe 3 employees with the possibility of adding more later. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the number 20 mean seats because Title V is based on the number of seats. Mr. Gmeiner said it is 20gpd per seat so it would be 400 gpd.

Mr. Shaffer said he would be doing two batches a week or maybe one and it would be done on Monday or Tuesday when the bar is empty. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Shaffer if this would be operating as a tavern a few days a week and brewery the other days, if so, that would make it interesting to estimate the usage. Mr. Orcutt said we should base it off both and do 20 seats and add the two batches a week. Mr. Gmeiner said for the brew it would be $230 \div 7 = 33$ so we would add that to the 20 gpd per seat. Mr. Gmeiner said there is a credit of 75 gpd for the previous office space use that was based on 1,000 sq. ft. So that would be $358 \div 30 \times \$7500 = \$8,136.00$ for the connection fee.

Mr. Gmeiner said as far as the brew if there are higher outputs, with sewage the biologic oxygen and the PH there may eventually be an issue with your waste and there might be a surcharge. Although he does not anticipate this happening, he just wanted to make Mr. Shaffer aware.

Mr. Orcutt suggested we base this on the number of batches per week for our approval. Mr. Orcutt said we are ok if there is 4/week and if anything over that, they would need to come back. Mr. Gmeiner said he thinks we should base it on at least 2 brews a day for a total of 14/week. Mr. Orcutt said let's limit one a day for 7 per week and then we revisit in a year and Mr. Gmeiner agreed.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion for (7) brews a week and a connection fee of \$8,136.00 and Mr. Orcutt added he would like to see a separate meter to be installed and put in and a backflow device on this line to protect it from the water system. Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye and Orcutt - Aye

797 Boston Road – Sewer Capacity

Mr. Gmeiner said there is capacity available, but we will need to take from what was originally allocated. He said a Town Meeting Vote is required and we will need to hold a public hearing. The Public Hearing will be held on February 28th and that will allow time to get it published for two weeks in the Groton Herald.

Ms. Robbins said this will be for Senior Housing Units and would be a total of 24 (12) 1-beds and (12) 2-bed. Ms. Enwright said the required flows will be 3,120 gpd. Mr. Orcutt asked how the project is coming along and Ms. Robbins said Ms. Enwright has finished the testing and design. She said they are getting ready to file with the planning board and hoping the public hearing will be first week in March. Mr. Gmeiner said we are roughly at 29,300 gpd and we are allowed 40k/gpd according to the Ayer IMA. He said the reserved use for the NE Power is 12k/gpd and what is not included in that 29,300 figure is the Pad A, B, C & D for the Shaw's area and that is a total of 1,117 gpd. Mr. Gmeiner feels we have sufficient capacity to handle this request, but there will not be a lot left over and by approving this it will lower what is currently available to NE Power.

Mr. Gmeiner said this project is a total of 3,120 gpd and Ms. Enwright explained that it is 12 (1) beds @ 110 gpd 12 (2) beds @ 150 GPD for a total 3,120.00. Mr. Gmeiner said we do have capacity and we should move forward to the hearing stage for approval.

116 Boston Road - Abatement

Ms. Crory said that they were billed 39-units and the previous two bills were 4-units and 8-units and they were contacted about a leak on the Badger report. In October the usage went way up and then it was resolved and got stuck again for three days. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there has been any other leaks and Ms. Crory said no. They were billed 39 units at \$585.98 and lowest tier would be \$345.54 so the abatement would be \$240.44.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate \$240.44 cents for 116 Boston Road Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye and Orcutt - Aye

6 Fairway Drive – Sewer Connection

No Update

797 Boston Road – Sewer Capacity

No Update

Pepperell IMA

No Update

Review I&I

No Update

Discuss Regulations Regarding Change of Use

No Update

FY24 & FY25 Budget

No Update

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – February 28th, 2024

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3rd, 2024 and January 17th, 2024 as written, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt-Aye

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:15 P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call Gmeiner–Aye and Orcutt-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant