



Commissioners:
James Gmeiner/Chair
Eric Berg/Vice Chair
Bruce Easom/Clerk

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: July 22, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: James Gmeiner/Chair
Bruce Easom/Clerk

Not Present: Eric Berg/Vice Chair

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey/Assistant, William Gilson/Station Avenue, Paul Brinkman/Pepperell DPW and Judy Anderson/Resident

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

20 Station Avenue

Mr. Gilson told the BOSC he plans to operate a restaurant at 20 Station Avenue, formerly the Station House. Mr. Gilson explained that the operation would maintain the existing floor plan with approximately 280 total capacity (140 seats on the ground floor, 60 seats upstairs, and potential for 80 seats on a patio opening next spring). The commission's concern was with the Kitchen Trailer which is to be used in conjunction with the Herb Lyceum. Mr. Gilson explained that minimal food prep would occur at the station house with most cooking taking place in the Kitchen Trailer at the Herb Lyceum. The commission discussed potential sewer connection fees based on seat capacity, with Mr., Gmeiner noting that the sewer capacity for the restaurant was based upon 250 seats. If it were to be fully occupied at 280 seats an additional Connection Fee of roughly \$24,000 would be due. (35 gal/seat x 30 seats/330 x \$7500).

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the amount of cooking done at the station house versus the trailer for events at Herb Lyceum. Mr. Gilson explained that minimal food prep occurs at the station house, primarily for water usage compliance with health board requirements, with most cooking happening on the trailer. He noted that the kitchen space is mainly used for receiving and storing food, with dish washing being the primary water usage, estimated at 8 hours per week from May 1st to October 31st. The Kitchen Trailer would also be drained by a septage hauler and would not be discharged into the sewer. The Commission's initial concern regarding the Kitchen Trailer was that the cooking would be done at 20 Station Ave. That does not appear to be the case so no Change of Use would occur due to that. There was concern about the higher seating capacity but Mr. Gilson emphasized they don't intend to exceed current capacity and will primarily use ground floor seating with occasional second floor events. All parties agreed to revisit water and sewer usage concerns around September 1st next year after one full year of operation. If the restaurant was regularly operating at full capacity the additional Connection Fee would need to be paid.

Mr. Brinkman suggested a check of the grease traps to ensure everything is functioning properly. Mr. Gilson explained the he will have a contract with Baker Commodities for monthly grease trap pumping at the facility, including both interior and exterior traps. He emphasized the importance of regular maintenance to prevent plumbing issues and potential problems with the town's sewer system.

Pepperell

Mr. Brinkman presented updates on recent repairs to two manholes, including grouting work at Broadmeadow to improve flow through the siphon and repairs near the railroad bridge that addressed hydrogen sulfide corrosion. He discussed ongoing concerns about concrete degradation due to sulfuric acid from hydrogen sulfide, with plans for additional patching work and potential short lining at the Seven Hills location. Mr. Easom clarified that the manhole receives flow from multiple town lines via the rail trail, and Mr. Brinkman explained that while the issue appears as leakage, it is primarily infiltration rather than direct inflow from pipes.

Mr. Brinkman mentioned that he has an intern analyzing the Nod Road pump station to correlate rainfall with pump flows and groundwater elevation to better understand the infiltration patterns. Regarding the sulfide issue, Mr. Brinkman confirmed they don't add solutions to change pH, explaining that the problem occurs when bacteria consume nitrate and then sulfate in the water, but they monitor it rather than taking more aggressive action since it's an isolated issue in an established system. Mr. Gmeiner discussed the Broadmeadow siphon system and asked about who maintains it, which led Mr. Brinkman to explain how inverted siphons work and the need for periodic jetting to keep the system clean.

Mr. Easom asked Mr. Brinkman if we could arrange a tour of the treatment plant in the near future and Mr. Brinkman said he would be in touch with some dates.

FY26 & FY27 Budget

The budget will be discussed at the next meeting when Ms. Crory is present.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve funding for printing (60) postcards at \$49.44, which will be sent as a separate mailing to all customers rather than included in the regular quarterly bill Mr. Easom seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Easom-Aye

Next Meeting – August 5th, 2026

BILLS SIGNED: No bills signed

MINUTES: *Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 19th, 2026 Mr. Easom seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Easom-Aye*

ADJOURN: *Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 3:10 PM. Mr. Easom seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Easom – Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant