



## Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

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**Board/Committee:** Water Resources Protection Task Force

**Day & Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** VIRTUAL

**Signature:** Sue Croft

**ATTENDEES:** Steve Gang, Chuck Dam, Nate Desrosiers, Sue Brown, Erika Brown, Ashley Ochs, Helen Bethell, Peter Colarusso, Melissa Flinn, Francie Caudill, Sue Croft

### MINUTES

- **Review current LSW PFA status if available**

Testing at the LSW was last done in the end of Jan and not due again until end of Feb. It was asked if it was possible to reactivate wells near Sawmill Brook that had were used by Gloucester during a drought in the 1960's in the event that we need to shut down the LSW due to PFAS levels that exceed MA DEP regulations. Answer: No, due to the stringent MA DEP New Source Water Approval Process which is very lengthy. The DEP would not waive this process either. There are also additional municipal wells around Gravelly Pond in Hamilton, at least one of which was used for drinking water but can't be used now because the Town let its permit lapse. Because the permits are not up to date, this well would have to go through the New Source Water Approval Process.

Chuck Dam informed the Task Force that the DPW and Town Administrator are working on a draft treatment plan should the LSW PFAS levels exceed the threshold and that the LSW can and will be treated should it come to that. He explained that the MA DEP would not immediately require the town to shut down the LSW and that the process would take some time during which public advisories would need to be issued.

Other approaches discussed were: potential interconnections between Beverly or Gloucester; public outreach; distribution of bottled drinking water. It was asked if the instability with the PFAS measurements could be tied to a cause(s). It was noted that this contaminant has not been measured until recently. There was discussion around the difficulty of testing PFAS at the level required (parts per trillion) and that since PFAS are in most everything that they can potentially get into test samples even through the person testing depending on what the person is wearing (clothing or even deodorant). Also discussed was the possibility that the turf field or building associated with the two new schools could impact PFAS levels at the LSW. Currently, no testing is being done on the turf material at the schools. There was question about the use of fertilizers at both the schools and the Essex County Club and whether those contribute to higher PFAS levels. Chuck noted that there's higher sodium levels in the LSW that could be tied to the amount of salt in the sanding/salting of Lincoln St and that they limit the amount of salt used there. It was noted that the MA DEP only requires testing for 6 types of PFAS out of some 5000-6000 compounds in use today.

Finally, it was noted that at some point in the future PFA contamination may become an issue at the Waste Water Treatment Plant as well. Currently, PFA levels are relatively low at the WTP at Gravelly Pond but dangerously high at the adjoining municipal landfills previously used by Manchester and Hamilton.

- **Update regarding Task Force members – Selectboard appointed 5 At Large members at their Feb 7 meeting** – Ron Parker, Gordon Turner, Jeff Cochand, Tom Kehoe and Mike Carvalho will join the Task Force as At Large members. There is still one open seat for which members can still recruit. Additionally, there are several people who have expressed interest in volunteering to help with specific tasks. Melissa Flinn who was on the Zoom, mentioned that she had tried to apply for an At Large position using the online volunteer form on the Town website and that it either didn't work or no one at Town Hall acknowledged her application. It was noted that this could have happened to others who tried to apply which is problematic. Melissa agreed to join the Task Force as a volunteer member and not an At Large member. Sue Croft will look into the issue surrounding Melissa's online form.
- **Compile list of experts who can inform the entire Task Force** – Ashley Ochs will contact Scott Horsley to see about engaging him as a subject matter expert. She will also ask him if he can recommend someone with expertise in Green Infrastructure as it was identified that this is an area where we are lacking. Peter Colarusso will reach out to a contact he has at the EPA office in Boston to see if s/he could talk to the Task Force. Steve Gang mentioned a scientist who is managing an independent study being done in Hamilton surrounding the new building development at 133 Essex St. She is able and willing to assist the Task Force. It was also noted that we should reach out to other towns as they may have information or expertise in water protection.
- **Update regarding WRPTF Webpage** – The 1990 Horsley Witten Water Resources Protection Plan was posted to the Task Force webpage. It was also mentioned later in the meeting that two documents currently listed under Governance on the Task Force Dropbox site should be posted there as soon as possible and read before the Kick-off meeting next week. They are two MA DEP documents – 1. Developing a Local Surface Water Supply Protection Plan and 2. Developing a Local Wellhead Protection Plan. Sue Croft will work with the Town's Communications Specialist to get these posted. Once the Task Force has completed categorizing and prioritizing all the pertinent documentation, Sue will continue to get those documents added to and organized on the webpage.
- **Update status of Hamilton's Chebacco Woods development & road improvements** – No new information regarding the road, but discussions and meetings about the new potential development continue with vigorous debate. Those privy to the Hamilton Planning Board discussions shared concern regarding the potential impact the project may have on the watershed and the lack of engagement with other communities within the watershed. Steve Gang reported a request that Manchester become more directly involved with the Hamilton Planning Board process, coming from the Chebacco Lake and Watershed Association.
- **Review rough draft Citizens Survey** – a rough draft of the Citizen's Survey was not available to review today.
- **Kick-off meeting status update:**
  - **Date** – Wednesday February 16, 2022, 4:00 to 5:30 via Zoom. Sue Croft will get the agenda and Zoom information posted as required by OML.

- **Agenda:**
  - Member Introductions (using a specific list of introductory points for all members)
  - Suggested reading to get up to speed on the issues being tackled by the Task Force
  - Review the list of “14 Questions/Issues”
  - Division of labor regarding tasks outlined in the above document
  - Discussion of regional approach to the watershed
  - Brief PFA update
  - Citizen awareness and engagement
  - Next steps
- It was also discussed that the agenda should include timeframes for each agenda item to keep the meeting on track/time
  
- **Vote on previous week’s meeting minutes** – the previous week’s minutes were approved.
- **Other items not reasonably anticipated when this agenda was written** – Steve Gang will send the list of “14 Questions” to those members who are not familiar with it. As it is still a working document and the Task Force still needs input on it, it will not be posted to the website until it is finalized. There will be no meeting next week on Wednesday at 1:00 in lieu of the Kick-off meeting being held the same day at 4:00.