



Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

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

Board/Committee: Water Resources Protection Task Force

Day & Date:

Time: Thursday April 28 6:30 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

ATTENDEES: Steve Gang, Tom Kehoe, Fred Wales, Peter Colarusso, Ron Parker, John Round, Mike Carvalho, Joe Sabella, Helen Bethell, Ashley Ochs, Chuck Dam, Nate Desrosiers, Sue Brown, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Jeff Cochand, Ann Harrison, Olga Hayes, Jessica Lamothe, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed members and reminded everyone that all emails pertaining to communication of this Task Force are considered public record and to treat them as such. It was asked if communications via the Zoom chat feature are also considered public record. Sue Croft will find out and report back.
- Review Final PFAS Planning Evaluation for LSW from CDM Smith Consulting – Chuck Dam gave the follow updates:
 - Monthly monitoring continues at the LSW with samples being tested through two separate labs with inconsistent results – one still being higher than the other and, at one point, one sample was right at the limit.
 - PFAS in the LSW can be treated by filtering. The process requires two rounds of filtration. The first would filter out iron and manganese (of which there is a high content in the Town's water normally). The second would filter out the PFAS. If/when this filtration becomes necessary space will be an issue. Therefore, the smaller, older building at the LSW site will need to be replaced with a larger building that can hold both filtration tanks. The plan includes a pilot/bench scale test where a portable filtration system would be placed on site to make sure the filtration process works before construction would begin.
 - The cost associated with this is between \$8M and \$10M.
 - The future of regulations around PFAS is uncertain. Federal and State regulations could tighten as time goes on. The Town will need to decide if we should wait and see what happens with PFAS levels or be proactive.
 - Media to remove PFAS is eventually spent and needs to be swapped out with new media which contributes to the high cost.

- There is some possibility that PFAS remains in effluent water that is discharged with our wastewater. At this point there is no testing being done on that water.
- Where do we stand with regards to grant money available to help with this problem? Since we are not technically over the limit, we would likely be behind other towns in the queue who are currently over the limit. Therefore, we would likely not be eligible for funding until our needs are more dire or exceed other towns.
- Monitoring is being done for PFAS around the landfill and sample results are varying and some are quite high (certain samples have been as high as the low 200's – State limit for drinking water is 20).
- What happens to filtered PFAS? The media is incinerated, but that may not remove the PFAS. It may be released into the air.
- What is the process leading up to a shutdown of the LSW due to high PFAS readings? If the test produces an average above 20 on a quarterly basis, meaning the average of the two samples per month are consistently above the max for three months, then the state would require public outreach and potentially shut down the well. That would lead the town to have water restrictions given that 40% of our supply would be offline. Should the Town suffer a drought during this period, further outreach would be required and at that point treatment (bench pilot or otherwise) or provide bottled water for drinking would likely be required as well.
- Flyer for June 11 Town Meeting – The Task Force plans to have a flyer distributed during the upcoming Special Town Meeting to provide education and point the community toward a citizen survey. The process to make this happen involves notifying Alan Wilson of The Task Force's intent, getting his approval for the flyer itself, printing the approved flyer and providing the copies to be distributed to the Town Clerk's office several days before the meeting. All this needs to be accomplished after having the Task Force's approval of the flyer content. It was noted that we also need to consider how to reach out to the portion of the community who will not attend Town Meeting.
- Working Group Updates
 - Group 2 – Group 2 (Supply & Sources) gave a two-part presentation to update the task force on what they've accomplished so far. The first, which was presented by Ashley Ochs and Fred Wales, can be found [HERE](#). The second, which was presented by Ron Mastrogiamomo, can be found [HERE](#).
 - Priorities highlighted from the presentation were to potentially add an Aquifer Protection Overlay District and to add the terminology "future water sources" into some of the language in the Town Bylaws and regulations. It was noted that we could use the Town Meeting flyer to inform people of this.
 - Group 5 – Group 5's update (Citizen Awareness and Engagement) consisted of more discussion about the flyer and survey. It was noted that the survey can also raise the issue of what we're trying to protect. Also noted was the upcoming hike around Gravelly Pond on Sunday May 8th at 2PM. Members of Group 5 suggested that they reach out to their contacts at Gordon College and personally invite them on the Gravelly Pond hike.

- Also noted was that this week is National Clean Water Week and next week is Drinking Water Week. Chuck Dam mentioned that he is a former president of Mass Water Works (a non-profit organization geared to drinking water suppliers) and put together a press release in the interest of Drinking Water Week.
- There was discussion around MECT guidelines to protect drinking water and more stringent Board of Health regulations to do the same. Mike Carvalho and Steve Gang both volunteered to research the regulations and Bylaws approach from a legal aspect in more detail.
- When will the Task Force be ready to give an update to the Select Board? The Task Force is targeting the Tuesday July 5th Select Board meeting for presentation.
- Next Task Force Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday May 12th from 6:30-8:00 PM and Groups 1 and 4 will give updates.
- Vote on Previous Minutes from 4/13 Meeting – Unanimously approved
- Other items not reasonably anticipated when this agenda was written – there were no additional items, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.