



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: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

Attendees: Steve Gang, Tom Kehoe, Olga Hayes, David Lumsden, Gordon Turner, Randi Augustine, Jeff Cochand, Ron Mastrogiacomo, Chuck Dam, Nate Desrosiers, Lynn Atkinson, Ava Argento, John Round, Helen Bethell, Ann Harrison, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Steve Gang called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. The only announcement was that Ava Argento, the SCORE student interning for the DPW, was joining the meeting.
- Chuck Dam gave his first of two updates. The first having to do with Unaccounted for Water (UAW). Chuck said that they recently changed the water billing and reporting to gallons to make it easier for users to gauge their consumption and in doing so it came to their attention that they hadn't taken into account water that was "metered and unbilled" which includes both Town Hall and the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). This accounts for a significant amount of water consumption given that the WWTP uses potable water for much of their processing at the treatment plant. From a reporting perspective, this brought our UAW down from just under 20% to just under 9%. The DPW has on their horizon projects having to do with the WWTP that includes using an effluent instead of potable water during processing. Having this data come to light begs that the Town potentially reprioritize the projects at the WWTP which would solve both UAW issues and WWTP capacity issues. Chuck mentioned that it would be important to address all the issues at the WWTP under one bigger project costing up to \$3M to leverage bigger/better engineering and construction contractors and economy of scale. Ann Harrison stated that the Town should make this a serious priority.
- Chuck Dam then provided his second update having to do with PFAS. New proposed stricter MCL regulations for two types of PFAS (PFOS and PFOA) have been lowered to 4/ppt for each. This will require the Town to remediate at the LSW and Gravelly Pond. Proposed regs should be finalized by Jan 2024 and compliance is expected within three years. DPW is researching solutions, one of which is to pipe water directly from the LSW to GP and make improvements to the WTP to treat water from both sources at once. Challenges include piping (new/existing), water from two different

sources which require different treatment, time and money required to treat PFAS over the next three years. The Task Force needs to consider the questions: If the Town is under the MCL but above zero, is that acceptable? Do we treat to zero PFAS or not? Feedback is needed from the community.

- Steve Gang gave a brief update on the Citizens' Survey. So far, 60 people have taken the survey. The goal was to have responses in the hundreds. Next steps will be to promote thru the Town website, social media and potentially the Cricket.
- Updates from Working Groups:
 - Group 1 – Waiting to receive the final analysis on water rate structure from Raftelis.
 - Group 2 – DEP approved Hamilton's plan to pave Chebacco Rd except for the 391 ft closest to Gravelly Pond. Steve informed everyone that after consulting with Scott Horsley, that Manchester has no recourse to reverse this decision. Jeff Cochand asked why Hamilton is paving the road at all. Steve said Hamilton considers it a public safety hazard. Tom Kehoe noted that for emergencies at the WTP, there's a call box at the site and Manchester Public Safety would respond.
 - Groups 3 & 4 – No updates
 - Group 5 – See Citizen Survey update above
 - Group 6 – Tom Kehoe reminded everyone that we had a water meter demo with a second vendor, Ti Sales/Neptune Meter. Jeff C noted that he preferred the second option. It was collectively decided that we could move forward and have members of the community trial both these meter options. This trial can happen in parallel. Chuck thought that feedback from users on the ease of use with the software/app aspect of these meter products would be a key deciding factor.
- In preparation for the next Task Force update to the Select Board on Tues 4/18, Steve reviewed slides he has prepared of Preliminary Key Recommendations. The first recommendation has to do with ongoing responsibilities. Steve presented two options and then the TF voted to approve bringing this recommendation and associated options forward to the SB. The next recommendation outlined 7 priority items that should be the primary focus over the first 12 months. Two additional items were added to that list having to do with improvements to the WWTP and water main infrastructure strategy.
- Minutes from Mar 6 (Meter Demo), Mar 8 and Mar 29 (Meter Demo) were unanimously approved.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wed 5/3 at 7:00 PM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.