

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the North Hearing Room, 3rd Floor, Hingham Town Hall.

Commissioners:

Robert Higgins, Chairman; Kirk Shilts; and Stephen Harold

Department Personnel & Staff:

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Liz Welch, DPW Office Administrator; and Steven Pederson, Engineering Consultant, Weston & Sampson.

Agenda:

The agenda for the meeting was established as amended.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Harold made a Motion to approve the December 6, 2016 meeting minutes as drafted; the Motion was seconded by Dr. Shilts and passed by unanimous vote.

Scheduling:

Next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2017

Foundation Drain Discussion:

58 Whiton Avenue

Mr. Dempsey explained that during routine investigations last year he discovered a foundation drain at 58 Whiton Avenue tied into the sewer manhole. A letter was sent advising homeowners Frank and Britta Nielson that they are required to disconnect the illegal drainage pipe from the town's sewer system.

Mrs. Nielson said they purchased the home four and half years ago and had no idea about this drain. She stated that her contractor/drainlayer said the pipe is underneath the house and the house set right on the property line so there is only about 2.5 to 3-feet of property to dig on. The contractor said job would require hand digging and the floors may need to be cut to get to the pipe from inside the house. She said the situation would cost thousands of dollars.

Mr. Nielson said no water was being drained by the pipe so why couldn't it remain. Mr. Dempsey confirmed that the pipe was dry during camera inspection. He said he is not sure why the pipe is there and what it does, and also doesn't know what would happen if it was disconnected. Dr. Shilts stated the only remedy for this situation would be to cut and cap the illegal pipe. The homeowners said they are concerned about what would happen if it was a foundation drain and disconnected. Dr. Shilts stated there are other ways to remedy foundation drainage and

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water infiltration, if it happens. He said the Commission can't grant a variance to allow the illegal connection because there is no regulatory allowance.

The homeowners asked if they could be given 6-months before they cap it to see if water is coming through the pipe. They said they would be more comfortable cutting and capping after an observation period. Mr. Higgins asked the homeowners to provide a plan on remediating the illegal connection, and in the interim, they will have to pay a \$150.00 penalty each billing period until it's disconnected. Mr. Dempsey said the pipe could be easily cut and capped at the manhole so they wouldn't need to dig up their property. The Commission discussed reasonable time frames for the homeowners to address this issue.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to order the homeowners of 58 Whiton Avenue to cut and cap an illegal drainpipe from their property entering into the public sewer system within sixty (60) days; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

Proposed New Sewer Connection:
10 Kilby Street (0/227 Summer Street)

Mr. Dempsey explained that David McCabe owns a stand-alone lot at 10 Kilby Street and paid the betterment for three (3) bedrooms on December 12, 2012. Mr. McCabe requests two (2) additional bedrooms for this property. Mr. Dempsey said the service gate valve should be moved into the town layout on Kilby Street - so if there was a problem, service could be shut at the street. Mr. Higgins stated there are presently three (3) bedroom units available in the Weir River Sewer District.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to grant two (2) bedroom sewer allocations for 10 Kilby Street; conditional on all Sewer Department engineering requirements and receipt of payment of all appropriate fees; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Shilts stated that there is now only one (1) bedroom unit left to be allocated in the Weir River Sewer District.

MWRA Capacity Analysis Update:

Mr. Pederson explained that the 12/28/16 MWRA Wastewater Capacity Evaluation was done to assess whether the Town still had capacity in the North Sewer District for additional connections. The analysis indicated that the MWRA pump station has adequate capacity to handle current average and peak wastewater flows according to information provided by the MWRA. Mr. Pedersen explained that the town sewers on Route 3A are having trouble at times getting the peak flows to the station without surcharging. Normal day average daily flow is fine. He said the capacity is driven by diameter, slope and condition of the pipe. He said the existing pipe cannot handle extreme peak flows where manholes #14 on 3A and at 350 Lincoln have previously surcharged, which is a public health problem.

Mr. Pedersen described potential rehabilitations/upgrades to help correct the problem. He said larger diameter pipes along with additional infiltration and inflow (I & I) identification and removal are needed in order to enable the town to utilize the remaining 1.02 MGD available peak MWRA pumping capacity.

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The report described two corrective (2) options:

1. Option 1 – Comprehensive Pipeline Upgrade Approach - \$2,170,000
This recommendation includes replacing 3,100 feet of sewer main along route 3A from 18-inch reinforced concrete to 24-inch and rebuilding approximately eighteen (18) manholes.
2. Option 2 – Pipe Re-Routing Approach - \$327,600
This solution would provide additional capacity with the town owned interceptor sewers and provide a more laminar transition of flow to the MWRA station through re-routing 175 feet of pipeline, and 275 feet of pipeline upgrade to 24-inch. This option would also require an easement from the state DCR.

The Commission discussed the two options. A consensus was that Option 2 would solve peak flow problems in the least-disruptive, most cost-effective manner.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to accept the Weston & Sampson MWRA Wastewater Capacity Evaluation final letter Report dated December 28, 2016; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion that the Sewer Commission recommends the Sewer Department move forward with the MWRA Wastewater Capacity report's Option 2 within an expedited period to correct a public health and safety deficiency; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to instruct the Sewer Department to inform all applicants seeking to hook into the North Sewer District about the current deficient peak capacity and that the town take applicable measures to limit additional exposures; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to consider updating the town's Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) ratio due to existing health and safety system deficits and include this matter on the agenda for the next meeting; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Higgins and passed by unanimous vote.

Sewer Bill Abatement Approvals:

The Commission reviewed sewer bill abatements for 21 Baker Hill Drive, 46 Baker Hill Drive, 274 South Street, 2 Isaac Sprague and 4 Summit Drive.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to approve the submitted bill abatements for 21 Baker Hill Drive, 46 Baker Hill Drive, 274 South Street, 2 Isaac Sprague Drive and 4 Summit Drive; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Harold and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
Office Administrator