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TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
Water & Sewer Infrastructure Advisory Committee
22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

TIME: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

LOCATION: 1st Floor Conference Room, Swampscott Town Hall, 22 Monument Avenue

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Smith (Chair), Lauren Fisher, Kelley Begin, Ralph Souppa, Christopher Vockley

Committee Alternates Present: Jeffrey Kaplan, Matthew Pelland, Terence Dansdill, Brian Drummond

Committee Members Present via Remote Access: None

Committee Members Absent: Adam Smyth, Gino Cresta, Charles Patsios

Other Town Officials Present: Mary Ellen Fletcher (Remote, Select Board)

Other Attendees: Alex Jafarzadeh (Remote)

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM and recording to Microsoft Teams started. A recording of the meeting will be uploaded to the Town's channel for resident viewing:

<https://swampscottma.tv/category/water-and-sewer-infrastructure>

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2/28/24 Meeting Minutes

Ralph requests a change to item 4, replacing "city limits" with "town limits". No objections

to this correction were raised.

Approval of the minutes of the February 28h, 2024 meeting was moved by Ralph, seconded by Terence; the motion carried unanimously.

Terence requests clarification on the percentage of town wide laterals relined, pointing out that the town has approximately 4500 laterals and approximately 470 have been relined, making the percentage of laterals relined 10%, not 40%. No objections to this correction were raised.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were entered.

3. Discussion and Possible Vote on Role of Alternates

Brian suggests that every week, alternates are selected alphabetically week to week as needed to fill committee absences, using past minutes to ensure equal distribution of duties.

Christopher Vockley motions to adopt Brian's suggestion.

Liz proposes to modify Brian's suggestion to include "at the discretion of the chair". Lauren seconds Christopher's motion to adopt Brian's suggestion, as amended by Liz. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Glossary

Liz proposes assembling a glossary of terms and reviewing at a future committee meeting, with the ultimate goal of posting the glossary to the website.

5. Beach Water & Outfall Testing

Update held later in the meeting. See below Pt. 8.

6. Update on Current Water & Sewer Projects

There was a steering committee meeting last week between the DEP, EPA, Lynn Water and Sewer Commision, as well as representatives from the Town of Swampscott. The meeting was technical in nature and focused on IDDE efforts. The EPA conveyed that the Town's efforts are not satisfactory and that additional funding is needed as well as a more aggressive approach to remediation. Funding allocation has been delayed due to other Town initiatives.

Liz reiterated that she has requested to attend the steering committee meetings but has been informed by the mayor of Lynn as well as the Swampscott town administrator that the

meetings are closed door.

There are two defined projects moving forward:

- UV pilot planned for this summer, funded jointly by Swampscott and Lynn.
- Bench testing effort to validate the efficacy of peracetic acid as a disinfectant.

There has been discussion of an outfall pipe extension but there is no indication that this has proceeded to the next step (investigation of water flow, eelgrass, etc.)

7. Discussion of Committee Priorities

Brian suggested that the committee recommend to the select board that the chair of the committee be allowed to attend steering committee meetings.

Liz suggests the committee's top priorities should be fixing and maintaining the town's infrastructure, improving monitoring, and complying with the consent decree. She further suggests that the steering committee meetings and complementary solutions being discussed there should not be the focus of the committee.

The committee assembled a list of priorities it believes is within the scope of the committee charter. There were volunteers to work on these topics as indicated.

- Glossary (Lauren volunteered after the meeting)
- I&I (Jeff volunteered after the 2/28/24 meeting)
- Stormwater/Drainage (Ralph)
- Sewer infrastructure, including Stacey's Brook and Areas Beyond Stacey's Brook (Terry)
- Consent decree (Matt)
- Testing (Chris, Kelley, Lauren)
- Information dissemination (website, physical signage, other)
- Finances / funding (Brian, Ralph)
- Drinking water quality

8. Updates from Work Groups

Liz proposed that working groups are limited to at most 3 members and reminded the committee about the need to be aware of and avoid serial deliberation.

Chris, Kelley, and Lauren (Testing WG) met last week to discuss signage and testing. Chris researched rapid testing. Capability setup would be approximately \$500k and need dedicated lab space. Chris reached out to MWRA Deer Island, their turnaround time for this type of testing is 5 - 6 days. Testing with a 24 hour turnaround time is significantly cheaper, \$10k, and doesn't require specialized training or lab space. The working group

plans on delivering a more in depth update at the next committee meeting.

Brian raised concerns about funding and suggested that the WG pursue funding avenues immediately due to town meeting deadlines.

Chris informed the committee that the WG is investigating DCR-like expanded signage with the goal of consistency across all town beaches.

9. Other Business

Liz proposed that the committee appoint a vice chair. Ralph motioned to appoint Chris as vice chair, seconded by Kelley. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian Drummond wanted everyone to see the 3/7/2024 Lynn Item article titled “Swampscott Select Board discusses King’s Beach”, where the Town Administrator gave an update on the Steering Committee and a meeting held recently with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Ralph to prepare information on how the Sewer and Water Rate Commission decided on the current tiered system and rates at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made by Brian and seconded by Ralph. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Minutes approved by the Water & Sewer Infrastructure Advisor Committee on 3/27/2024.

DOCUMENT LIST

1. Lynn Item article dated 3/7/2024 and titled “Swampscott Select Board discusses King’s Beach”

Next Meeting is on March 27th, 2024 at 7:30 PM