

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2023

This meeting is available virtually on Zoom. This meeting is being recorded.

This meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m., those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Kathleen Kelly, and James Burress.

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Mark Gallagher, Fred Centanni, Krystyna McNally, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell and Linda Vierboom.

Hatch: Duke Bitsko

A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023, MEETING

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. Burress seconded the motion to approve the November 15, 2023, minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: Our 4th quarter PFAS results are pending from an outside lab. Once we have those results, they will be posted.

We are on the schedule for our next carbon change out starting next month. All six filters will be changed out before the summer high demand period at the end of June.

Questions/Comments: What does a production run mean?

Calgon must produce the specific type of carbon which we use. This is based on filter size and depth.

Questions/Comments: Is our media taken out and re-used?

Currently Calgon is producing the load that will go into filters 5 & 6. These are the filters that we started the change out with. Media that is there now has been in the filters since last year. When Calgon comes back, they will shut down filters 5 & 6, drain and remove the media from the filters and send it back to their facility and reactivate (essentially a swing load). In the interim they will add virgin carbon which is what they are producing now. In total we will have 8 loads of carbon. One load will always be reserved for the swing load which will get sent back to get reactivated.

Pine Grove Restoration and Improvements to the Perimeter Road Presentation: Presented by Duke Bitsko, from Hatch in slide format. A link to this presentation may be found at:

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/cwb_mtg_20231212_final.pdf

Pine Grove Restoration and Improvements to the Perimeter Road Project Goals:

1. Develop a better understanding of Pine Grove understory and lack of regeneration.
2. Reconstruct uniform path surface connecting Glacken Slope to Kingsley Park (porous bituminous concrete), approximately 0.35 miles.
3. Meet ADA Compliance standards for new connector paths.

Key Topics: Pine Forest Presentation, PFAS

4. Create a formal connection between Cambridge/Watertown Greenway and Perimeter Rd.
5. Improve drainage and protection of drinking water supply.
6. Restore existing vegetative buffers.

Questions/Comments: Icing on porous pavement is rare due to pre-treatments. There is an additional maintenance requirement for this material. DPW handles this via contract at our expense.

Questions/Comments: Re: Concerns of contaminants on the Watertown Cambridge Railway. Will the railway be covered/capped?

The Watertown Cambridge railway pavement is not porous, and the paving is the “capping”.

Questions/Comments: The board agrees with closing off most of the current paths in the grove.

Questions/Comments: Re: Pine Grove & Perimeter Road Improvements: Could we use temporary sandwich boards/signage initially to educate the change of use/change of location? A new low key signage program will be implemented.

Questions/Comments: Ms. Kelly noted the dogs running through the woods and thinks, although it would anger a lot of people, brushwood along the paths would discourage this. She asked what the correlation between dogs and lack of plants thriving is?

There is a serious compact layer at the top of leaves making it hard for seedlings to get down and into the ground. The pine forest is dense, allowing for little sign light. These conditions allow for invasive species to take advantage of any openings and sunlight.

For the pilot studies, we plan to protect whatever seedlings we put in. To create these areas, we will need to fence them off. A new type of fencing system has been developed (buried) to fend off smaller creatures.

Questions/Comments: A restoration PR campaign is recommended. It is suggested a QR code be placed on the fencing.

Ms. Roosevelt thanked Mr. Bitsko for the presentation and for adhering to the Fresh Pond Master Plan. Mr. Bitsko will keep the board updated on the progress of the project.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: It was asked how the Fresh Pond Census information was gathered. Mr. Kaplan replied that the Eco Counter Program did this.

Questions/Comments: Re: 104 Boston Post Rd, Weston. The House Appeals Committee issued a decision to overturn the Weston Zoning Board of Appeals denial of a comprehensive permit. The

Key Topics: Pine Forest Presentation, PFAS

City of Cambridge plans to challenge the decision in Superior Court. Mr. Kaplan will look into this further and will share information with the board.

Questions/Comments: Water supply capacity is at 82%:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt commented positively on the water supply summary graphs.

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: The daily maximum in November was 12.88 MGD. This is average for this time of year.

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: Where does CWD get their interns?
They come from Northeastern University.

Business:

Questions/Comments: The water fund balance is down a bit. It is being used for the SCADA Program.

D. ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Roosevelt was nominated to be the President of the Cambridge Water Board for 2024.

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to elect Ms. Roosevelt as President of the Water Board for CY2024. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- January 9, 2024: TBA/TBD
- February 13, 2024: TBA/TBD

January 31, 2024, Fresh Pond Stewardship awards at 8:30 pm

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. All were in favor of the motion.