

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

March 20, 2019

This meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Ann Roosevelt, Jason Marshall, Kathleen Kelly and James Burruss

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Jamie O'Connell, Annie O'Connell, Ed Dowling, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

**A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018 MEETING**

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to approve the December 11, 2018 minutes as written.

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2019 MEETING**

Mr. Marshall moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve the February 14, 2019 minutes as written.

In response to DCR Greenway lighting, Mr. Corda said no decision has been made. The conduit (without wiring installed) will be installed as part of the DCR Project and this is deemed a sensible decision; that allows time to make a lighting decision. There will be a public meeting in the fall to discuss lighting. Ms. Kelley passed out a draft letter regarding concerns of lighting the pine forest ravine. After some discussion and agreement about the details of the letter -

Ms. Kelley moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to approve the March 15, 2019 letter from the Cambridge Water Board to the City Manager.

Mr. Corda requested that the final letter be e-mailed to him to be printed on Waterboard Stationary and sent to the City Manager and Deputy City Manager. Mr. Corda will cc the board on the email when sent.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Water Distribution System Information and Maintenance* – In slide format as presented by Mark Gallagher, Director of Engineering and Distribution Operations. The presentation is available using the following link.

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/water\\_board\\_presentation\\_march\\_2019.pdf?la=en](https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/water_board_presentation_march_2019.pdf?la=en)

The water distribution system consists of a network of approximately 185 miles of buried pipe bringing clean water from the plant to the consumer. Age of pipe ranges from 1864 until present. Historical and current pipe materials were discussed. Double Cement lined Class 52 Ductile Iron pipe is the pipe of choice for the Cambridge Water Department. Ductile iron pipe can handle pressures up to 350 PSI and is relatively inexpensive. It has resistance to stresses and is flexible. There have been improvements made to the product which help to protect from corrosion. We are fortunate to have a low water table and typically not very corrosive soils.

CWD's methodology of picking which mains are replaced, repaired or left untouched were discussed.

*Comments/Questions:* Mr. Corda noted that since the early 1990's, in conjunction with public works, 43 miles of new pipe have been installed within the City and of those 43 miles, 13 have been done since 2013. Cambridge averages about 19 or 20 leaks on water mains and mid 40's for the total number of leaks which includes water service lines. For calendar year 2018 there is less than 8% unaccounted for water in our distribution and transmission system. In the U.S. there are about 2 trillion gallons of water lost yearly. There is not a lot of research/data out there about leaks.

Mr. Burruss asked why 6" mains are being upgraded to 8" mains. Mr. Gallagher responded that the mains have been increased to 8" since the 1990's due to the increased growth of the City and recommendations made by the fire department for fire protection.

In response to Ms. Kelley question whether hotter weather affected pipes, Mr. Gallagher reported that water is unique with weather change however there were no issues with pipes in hotter weather.

Mr. Marshall asked about staggering replacements, based on age. Mr. Gallagher replied that it is not cost effective and this practice was not done by municipalities. There are repair versus replacement costs. Projects are often piggy backed with other work, particularly with DPW, in the area. Leak history, good flow for fire protection, age/pipe material, water quality issues from consumers are all factored in when prioritizing pipe replacement.

## **C. OPERATIONS**

### **Transmission and Distribution:**

As in the case of the South of Main Street (SoMa) Project a lot of large developments are asked to replace the water mains to meet their development needs.

*Comments/Questions:* It was noted that valve boxes are often unintentionally paved over/ripped off by contractors performing permitted street and sidewalk work. If we know who they are, we can contact them to resolve the issue. When asked by Ms. Roosevelt if we can improve on that, Mr. Gallagher said that DPW now has company medallions marked in the pavement to warrant better communications and resolutions relating to this issue.

Mr. Corda stated that the CWD spends about 5 million dollars a year on water main replacement. In addition, the department has acquired larger and better equipment to expand our in-house water main replacement capabilities. Credit goes out to Mark Gallagher and his willing and able crews. It was noted that there will be a community meeting held regarding the Craigie Street water main break on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 5:00pm.

### **Watershed:**

Jamie O'Connell said that gas stations, when installing underground tanks, must bury them according to specifications set by DEP. She also stated that they cannot be buried within the 200' buffer zone. Ms. O'Connell discussed the 2017 permitted school project that straddles Lincoln and Lexington. Permitting must go through both towns and the two towns are working together on this.

**Engineering:**

Mr. Gallagher said there are 1,200 lead services left in the City.

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

No comments

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS**

- April 11, 2019 (*Previously scheduled as 4/9/19*): Approved/Water Chemistry/Quality
- May 14, 2019: Approved/TBD
- June 18, 2019: TBA/TBD
- September 10, 2019: TBA/TBD

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m.  
The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Business:**

No comments

**Water Operations:**

No comments

**Engineering:**

Mr. Gallagher said there are ~1,200 lead services left in the City.

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Burruss asked if there has been any response to the Commissioner Roy letter that was sent on February 14<sup>th</sup> – there has not.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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