

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2019

This meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Jason Marshall, James Burruss and Richard Johnson/via telephone

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Jamie O'Connell, Dave Kaplan and Linda Vierboom

A. MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to approve the April 11, 2019 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the opening of the meeting Mr. Corda referenced the Janice Snow e-mail regarding the DCR Greenway drainage retention basin which is lined with rough broken stone, otherwise known as riprap. (Man-placed rock or other material used to armor shorelines, streambeds, bridge abutments, pilings and other shoreline structures against scour and water or ice erosion.) Ms. Snow said that this is/was not the approved final design for the detention basin and was placed for temporary winter erosion control. Aside from the aesthetics, the riprap is a potential safety issue to bikers should they veer off into the basin. The contractor thought the riprap was going to stay in place. Public Works is setting up a meeting with the appropriate participants to correct the situation. Once a course of action is determined to restore the basin to its original design, it will likely be carried out this fall, at the earliest, or in the Spring of 2020, at the latest. As requested by Mr. Marshall, Mr. Corda will update water board members, either at the September 2019 meeting, or by e-mail.

Update on Greenway Lighting: The City manager is intent on resolving the issues so that the outcome is positive and successful. Mr. Corda has reiterated that the City manager will not decide on lighting without a process which will meet everybody's (stakeholders) needs and currently there are no meetings scheduled or planned.

Stony Brook Tour: Due to the wet and muddy conditions today's originally scheduled tour of Stony Brook Reservoir, dam and gatehouse was postponed until the September 10, 2019 meeting.

FY20 Budget Update: Mr. Centanni discussed the FY20 Water Department Operating and Capital budgets. The FY20 Budget Book summary was handed out for reference. There is a zero percent FY20 increase on the water side. To view the budget, visit the City Web Page with the link below:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/Budget>

An "Energy" page will be added in the future to our webpage. This will include our energy reduction and renewable energy information, as well as our future energy related plans. CWD will initiate the design of the hydroelectric energy project which is downstream of the Stony Brook Dam and at the Weir Chamber within Fresh Pond Reservation. We are also starting the Resiliency Project at the Department and will begin with the feasibility of locating a battery storage system within the treatment plant. The project will review battery technology to develop a footprint and a location for this system.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

When asked how long the Huron Avenue construction project (from Garden to Raymond streets) would last, Mr. Corda said it would last a construction season.

CWD crews are working with DPW in the Cambridge Cemetery to repair many water systems leaks and upgrades to the water service lines into the cemetery, and connections to the water spigots throughout. With this work we have installed irrigation cabinets, meters and backflow devices for water accountability and to protect the water supply.

The Water Works Construction line item in the capital budget was increased to \$2.0M for FY20 and will continue at this level.

Watershed:

We are, and have been, at full reservoir storage capacity since November 2018. The water supply summary indicates this is another good precipitation month.

The capital budget includes funds for the Blacks Nook in-lake assessment and to start the existing condition assessment of the Pine Forest.

Business:

The Water Fund Balance is about \$10.6M and is a reserve fund should a major catastrophe occur. The Water Department is financially setup as an enterprise fund that is separate from the city's general fund. The revenues from the water rate pays for all the water department expenses, including debt payments.

Water Operations:

4.7 billion gallons of water were pumped in 2018.

The SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system is 20 years old and is in the planning stages to be upgraded over the next several years. FY20 funds will be used to initiate this project.

Engineering:

No comments

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

The letter written to the Lincoln Conservation Commission by Ms. O'Connell, relating to the Minuteman High School Athletic Complex, was complimented on by members of the Board.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- June 18, 2019: Approved/TBD
- September 10, 2019: Approved/Tour of Stony Brook Reservoir (Dam and Gatehouse)
- October 15, 2019: Approved/TBD
- November 12, 2019: TBA/TBD
- December 10, 2019: TBA/TBD

Mr. Burruss moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.
The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.