

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2019

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 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; Richard Johnson via telephone

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

Mr. Johnson announced that he will be recording the meeting.

A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018 MEETING

The vote to approve the December 11, 2018 minutes has been postponed until the next meeting when additional comments from Ms. Roosevelt will be added.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Marshall moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve the January 8, 2019 minutes as written.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Watershed Update: Mr. Kaplan stated that there are a lot of ongoing projects in the watershed and he discussed the 104 Boston Post Road project. He stated that all aspects of the project have been denied except the state 40B Housing Appeals Committee, which is still pending.

DCR Greenway: Mr. Kaplan mentioned that the recently expanded detention basin was going to be "softened", meaning that additional shrubs would be planted to make the appearance of the basin more aesthetically pleasing.

DCR Greenway Lighting: There was significant discussion about potentially negative impacts of lighting the pine forest. This was based on the December 10, 2018 letter from Janice Snow, Advisory Board Chair; Louise Weed, Advisory Board Chair Emeritus; and Jim Barton, Advisory Board member and which was included in the February water board package. The objections to lighting are potential impacts to the flora, fauna and wildlife habitat, and this specific location being the only forest in the City.

Mr. Corda stated that the City Manager has said before that he is not going to make any decisions until: 1) the lighting demonstration, as proposed, is set up for individuals to see; 2) there is a public meeting to discuss the lighting. He also reiterated that the DCR Greenway project does include conduit only (without any wiring installed) within Cambridge. The installation of conduit is also in the Watertown section as well – the conduit was part of the DCR design for both Watertown and Cambridge. The intent was that if Cambridge decided to light the greenway there would be no need to re-excavate. Watertown is installing lighting on the greenway.

The benefit of installing the conduit in Cambridge, as part of the construction contract, is that there now is no rush to decide. The lighting discussion can go on without the pressure to decide hastily without all the appropriate input from all vested parties.

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded a motion that a draft cover letter be discussed at our next meeting to send to the City Manager relating to potentially lighting of the pine forest. This letter would be a cover letter referencing the Advisory Board letter.

Educational Sessions: It was proposed that the Department have informational sessions with the Water Board relating to a) distribution system infrastructure/maintenance and b) water chemistry. Mr. Corda commended the suggestion and proposed that the distribution system infrastructure/maintenance be presented in March and water chemistry in April 2019.

Ms. Kelly commented that she had been at a presentation discussing a success story of a polluted area in New Jersey whose ecosystem had been fully restored in only 12 years. Mr. Kaplan was asked to investigate this and see if we could use any of these methodologies here within the Reservation.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

No comments

Watershed:

No comments

Business:

No comments

Water Operations:

No comments

Engineering:

No comments

D. ACTION ITEMS

DCR Letter

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve and send the DCR letter. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

No comments

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- March 20, 2019: Approved/Distribution System Maintenance/Information
- April 9, 2019: Approved/Water Chemistry/Quality
- May 14, 2019: Approved/TBD
- June 18, 2019: TBA/TBD
- September 10, 2019: TBA/TBD

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.