

WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS
September 19, 2023

The Wellesley Board of Public Works held a duly posted open online remote meeting beginning at 5:00 PM.

Remote participants included Chair Ellen Korpi, Commissioners Jeffrey Wechsler and Scott Bender; Director David A. Cohen; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown, Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr.; Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson; Executive Assistant Debra Surner; and Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen. Interested citizens included Joe Schott of 26 Halsey Avenue, Ryan Pettigrew of 9 Geraldine Drive; and Recreation Commission member Chair Paul Cramer, Recreation Department Director Matthew G. Chin, CPRP and Community Preservation Committee member Mark Wolfson.

Chair Korpi called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following reference to the minutes from the most recent Board of Public Works meetings proposed for approval and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board was polled and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2023, as presented (3-0).

Mr. Bender - Yes
Mr. Wechsler - Yes
Ms. Korpi – Yes

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board was polled and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2023, as presented (3-0).

Mr. Bender – Yes
Mr. Wechsler – Yes
Ms. Korpi – Yes

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Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board was polled and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2023, as presented (3-0).

Mr. Bender – Yes
Mr. Wechsler – Yes
Ms. Korpi – Yes

CITIZEN SPEAK

Chair Korpi provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works and explained it is the Board's policy for each citizen to have three minutes to speak.

Ms. Korpi then welcomed Joe Schott to address the Board. Ms. Korpi thanked Mr. Schott for coming to the meeting and acknowledged receipt of his recent letter in which he referenced the concerns he plans to raise for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Schott explained he had come before the Board to speak about the proposed use of the parking lot at Morses Pond and to convey his opposition to the advancement of a feasibility study to be conducted to determine the potential use of that location for pickleball courts. Mr. Schott conveyed his respect for the Recreation Commission and all it accomplishes for the Town, yet maintained his opposition is due to two concerns. He noted he lives on Halsey Avenue and confirmed that residents living on Turner Road and Halsey Avenue currently hear all announcements and sounds emanating from the Morses Pond location, including the trains and beeping of DPW trucks when servicing the facility. He expressed concern about potential additional noise impact on neighbors, as well as on the Morses Pond Beach & Bathhouse Improvements Project, itself.

While Mr. Schott confirmed he is an advocate for the Morses Pond Project to move forward, he reiterated his concerns are related to the Recreation Commission's request to potentially add pickleball courts to the Warrant Article. He suggested this potential addition to the Warrant disregards the four-year process and the overall public comment forums undertaken during that same timeframe. Mr. Schott conveyed the concerns expressed in the public forums were focused on potential disruption of the existing natural environment, preserving wildlife, the natural habitat and continued natural use of that site. Mr. Schott suggested any consideration related to pickleball courts be tabled until the study for the pond project has been completed and the vision and design for the Morses Pond area have been finalized.

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Following Mr. Schott's presentation and discussion, Recreation Commission Chair Cramer reiterated that the Recreation Commission is not requesting approval for the installation of pickleball courts. Mr. Cramer conveyed the Recreation Commission is seeking BPW support for a feasibility study to be conducted in order to determine if the Moses Pond Parking Lot location could serve as a viable, potentially permanent, location for pickleball courts.

Ms. Korpi thanked Mr. Schott for taking the time to participate in the meeting and share his thoughtful recommendations.

9 Geraldine Drive. Ms. Korpi invited Ryan Pettigrew to address the meeting. Mr. Pettigrew began by stating that, to date, he and his family have not received the proposed plans or corresponding timetable with a long-term solution to replace the ruined pipe under their driveway with a long-term solution that will make repaving the driveway viable.

Mr. Pettigrew then conveyed he and other family members continue to await appropriate, detailed responses to questions which they conveyed during past meetings at which time models were discussed.

The third concern Mr. Pettigrew expressed was related to the stormwater drainage model, itself. Mr. Pettigrew conveyed that a correctly constructed stormwater drainage model clarifies the issue of flooding prevention by allowing comparison to claim potential improvements without being forced to accept one approach. He added that a properly constructed model can predict, with some degree of certainty, and accurately account for the amount of flooding produced by a rainfall and would not require a "wait and see" approach to determine to what extent the problem has, or has not, been resolved. Mr. Pettigrew noted the Linden Street model has not yet been corrected. Mr. Pettigrew also conveyed his questions related to the model remain unanswered and that he and his family are awaiting detailed responses to the topics they raised in a recent meeting with Staff and Mr. Bender.

Mr. Pettigrew suggested that in order for the Board to make a decision related to the approach to be taken to improve the situation, that decision should be based upon having a comprehensive understanding of how much flooding has occurred. He emphasized the Board of Public Works should be fully informed about the extent to which an improvement may fall short and how much flooding is expected to be resolved. Mr. Pettigrew suggested a thorough evaluation related to stormwater drainage modeling is necessary to understand how much improvement can be expected, as well as the potential limitations for any drainage improvements.

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Mr. Pettigrew raised two additional questions for the Board's consideration. What burden of proof is required by the railroad company to make clear that correction of the drainage problems is not optional? And, what alternative has been explored in forcing the railroad company to meet its obligations as part of the storm drain system?

In conclusion, Chair Korpi thanked Mr. Pettigrew for his participation and encouraged him to continue to listen to the meeting and conversation planned to take place later in the meeting on stormwater. She also assured him that Town-wide stormwater issues will remain on the agenda on a regular basis. She confirmed the Board of Public Works will continue to be very involved as they work with staff members to strive to sort out ways to improve the situation and resolve this drainage issue and continue to pursue potential solutions to what is an extremely complex and expensive issue.

Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Mr. Pedersen conveyed that the Advisory Committee's attention continues to be captured by PFAS in the drinking water and related discussions with the MWRA, as well as any recent decisions related to the pickleball court conversations, all of which are to be covered among the agenda items.

Morses Pond Parking Lot Pickleball Courts Discussion. Director Cohen conveyed the Board and Staff are to be joined by Community Preservation Committee Member Mark Wolfson and welcomed Recreation Commission Chair Paul Cramer and Recreation Director Matt Chin.

Chair Korpi acknowledged that Mr. Shott had raised interesting issues related to this matter during Citizen Speak and hoped those would be addressed as part of the presentation.

Recreation Commission Chair Cramer began by thanking the Board of Public Works (BPW) for its time this evening and confirmed he, Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Chin are present not to request BPW approval of pickleball courts at Morses Pond but, instead, to request the BPW indicate its support to allow the Recreation Commission to move forward with a feasibility study to be conducted to determine if the Morses Pond Parking Lot is a viable location for pickleball courts.

Mr. Cramer referred to the current challenges faced by those residents who wish to play pickleball and their consistent requests for a designated location for this activity to be chosen in Town. Mr. Cramer also reviewed the current reservation system used at the various locations throughout Town where existing courts are currently located. He conveyed that in such a dense community the given proximities are too close to neighbors. Mr. Cramer acknowledged the noise can be disturbing, depending upon how many games are going on at the same time. He emphasized the most significant

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difference between tennis and pickleball is this game consists of quicker interactions, combined with the sound of a plastic ball hitting a hard surface, resulting in louder noise than a tennis ball against a racket.

Chair Cramer reviewed details related to court adjustments that have been used to accommodate use by multiple sports groups using the same courts. He also suggested that the Morses Pond parking lot is physically far enough from the residential homes to make it the least disruptive location. He referred to acoustic reports that recommend the courts be at least 350-500 feet away from neighbors.

Chair Cramer conveyed that residents have been requesting action be taken to identify a location for this purpose for the past year and a half, which is why the Recreation Commission is attempting to have this addressed at the upcoming Special Town Meeting and, ultimately receive the funding to solve the problem prior to next summer. Mr. Cramer conveyed he sees no inherent conflict and believes both the Morses Pond Beach and Bathhouse Improvements Study and the feasibility study can be conducted in parallel.

Mr. Cramer took time to enumerate the pros and cons associated with the Morses Pond location, in addition to the goals of trying to accommodate the interest of many Townspeople. He also referred to a picture within his presentation of the proposed location for creation of the courts and conveyed he comes before the Board of Public Works, as landowners of that location and understands if the BPW will not allow this activity that close to waterworks land, there will be no need to pursue a feasibility study.

Mr. Cramer then invited CPC member Mr. Wolfson, to contribute any additional thoughts on the matter. Mr. Wolfson thanked him for the opportunity but replied all points have been addressed covered and noted the CPC is trying to understand if it makes sense.

Following Mr. Cramer's presentation, Mr. Wolfson conveyed all items of potential concern had been addressed and it is his understanding that the Community Preservation Commission is supportive of the feasibility study. Mr. Wolfson conveyed the CPC continues to collect and interpret related data to determine if it makes sense to move forward with the proposed study or, otherwise, stop pursuing it.

At the conclusion of Chair Cramer's presentation, and he invited questions from the Board of Public Works. Mr. Cramer and other guests responded to specific inquiries from the Board of Public Works.

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Director Cohen referred to the graphics of the Zone 1 and Zone 2 protection areas. He also addressed a question related to the Zone 1 and 2 radius areas and confirmed most of the parking lot sits outside Zone 1, which has some prohibited uses, but the proposed location for the courts is not currently one of them. He explained he would be supportive of a feasibility study to help determine if this site would be appropriate for this type of use.

Director Cohen conveyed that because this location involves waterworks land, it is an atypical request. If the decision is made to move forward, it will then need to be determined what guidelines will need to be put into place for pickleball court use on this Town property under the BPW's jurisdiction.

Director Cohen also confirmed that the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) will consider the potential impact on the environment and traffic noise level in any feasibility study. It was reiterated that the goal of the feasibility study is to determine if it makes sense.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Mr. Bender, the Board was polled and it was unanimously,

VOTED: That the Board of Public Works indicated its support for the completion of a feasibility study to get clear and specific answers to confirm whether or not this makes sense.

Mr. Wechsler - Yes
Mr. Bender - Yes
Ms. Korpi - Yes

Following the vote, Messrs. Cramer, Wolfson and Chin thanked the Board for its time and departed the meeting.

Stormwater Issues and Discussion. Town Engineer Hickey began by providing an overview, including reference to detailed content on maps for discussion, including municipal flood vulnerabilities, areas of reported flooding and reported stormwater issues throughout Town. Following the presentation Mr. Hickey welcomed comments and specific questions from the Board.

The Board and Staff were extremely receptive to this discussion as they are in the process of implementing a Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

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Chair Korpi referred to the situation at 9 Geraldine Drive as one symptom within a larger issue, which needs to be examined on a Town-wide basis. Ms. Korpi emphasized the importance of recognizing vulnerable locations. She also confirmed that the topic would continue to be included on the BPW agenda on a regular basis.

Chair Korpi conveyed this review is an excellent start to the conversation with an overview to identify those locations. As these discussions continue, the Board is provided with a better understanding of the various challenges encountered and the kinds of remediation efforts under consideration to address the matters. In conclusion, the Board thanked Mr. Hickey for the comprehensive overview.

PFAS Update. Director Cohen reported the Morses Pond Treatment Plant's Treatment status remains at non detect; the September results at both Longfellow and Wellesley Avenue plants are well below the threshold, as referenced on the graphs reflecting those trends provided for discussion purposes.

Mr. Cohen noted the PFAS Sampling Reports from DPW Monthly Report April 2023 – September 2023. He suggested these reports reflect a seasonal trend, in addition to an area holding steady at lower levels, perhaps due to the exceptional amount of rain.

Director Cohen conveyed that recent conversations with the MWRA continue and indicate there is a growing interest by the Towns of Needham and Natick, for a joint, regional second connection. Mr. Cohen conveyed the MWRA wants and needs to take its Section 80 pipe offline. A second connection to Wellesley is viewed as a critical component to making that work happen.

Mr. Pedersen inquired if there has been any progress identifying a responsible source for the PFAS contamination. Director Cohen confirmed progress has been pursued on litigation and noted some class action lawsuits are underway. Mr. Cohen also confirmed there has been no identification of a source responsible for the contaminants. He added it is hoped that some responsibility can be attributed to the manufacturers.

Recycling & Disposal (RDF) Update. Director Cohen referred to Chair Korpi's efforts, extended through the 3R Working Group, a subgroup was established to create a robust welcome package for folks moving to Town. The 3R Working Group also considers this to be an opportunity to both welcome new folks to the Town of Wellesley, and introduce them to the RDF, as well as to sustainability offerings provided by the Town. Mr. Cohen conveyed appreciation to Ms. Korpi and her team for bringing this effort to fruition.

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DPW Building Renovation Projects Update. Director Cohen referred to the planned renovations at the RDF and the Park & Highway Building. He noted the budgets for those projects have increased substantially since they were last reviewed. He explained both projects will be planned and directed through the PBC and FMD, with support from both the Board and Department of Public Works. Mr. Cohen confirmed there would be a meeting with the PBC in October to review the status of the proposed projects and determine where things now stand.

Special Town Meeting (STM). Director Cohen referred to the upcoming timeline for the budget. He conveyed STM will address Articles indirectly impacting the Department of Public Works, including those related to Morses Pond.

DPW Monthly Report. Chair Korpi thanked Director Cohen for providing the Monthly Report, which is always thorough and informative. Due to the need for a hard stop for this meeting at 6:15 PM, Ms. Korpi recommended that each Board member review the content of the report and address any question to the Director.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board was polled and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Scott Bender

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Scott Bender
Secretary

DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
September 19, 2023
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER. Good evening. It is _____ PM and I am going to call to order the September 19, 2023 meeting of the Wellesley Board of Public Works. This meeting may be viewed via live stream on Wellesley Media.org and on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 39. It is being recorded by Wellesley Media for subsequent viewing on Wellesley Media.org. This is a ZOOM meeting with the following members of the Wellesley Board of Public Works present and participating remotely: Jeff Wechsler, Scott Bender and myself, Ellen Korpi.

A. APPROVAL OF BPW MEETING MINUTES. Board to review the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2023 meeting, the Executive Session Minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting, and the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of the August 8, 2023. **BOARD APPROVAL AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

B. CITIZEN SPEAK. Chair Korpi to inquire if any participants have called in to the meeting.

C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATE. Mr. Pedersen to be invited to bring any information to the attention of the Board and Staff. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

D. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

E. MORSES POND PARKING LOT PICKLEBALL COURTS. Director to refer to presentation and request to be made by Recreation Department representatives. Reference to include e-mail correspondence from Mr. Steve Grossman re: Comments from NRC Meeting 09/07/2023. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

F. STORMWATER ISSUES AND DISCUSSION. Director to initiate discussion on recent issues encountered and future planning preparations. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

G. PFAS UPDATE. Director to refer to most recent activity related to this matter. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

H. RECYCLING & DISPOSAL FACILITY UPDATE. Director to provide update on recent activity at the Facility. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

I. DPW BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE. Director to review status of current project planning. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

J. FY 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION. Director to refer to preliminary budget preparations. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

K. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (STM). Director to refer to Articles to be addressed at the November 6 STM. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

L. STATEMENT OF FACT ACTIVITY REPORT. Director to confirm there are no recent purchases to report within this category. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

M. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Director to refer to the financial statements for the month of June 2023. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

N. WATER & SEWER RATES. Director to engage the Board in a follow-up discussion related to the most recently approved rate increases. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

PLEASE NOTE – THE MONTHLY REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED UPON COMPLETION PRIOR TO THE UPCOMING MEETING.

O. DPW MONTHLY REPORT. Director to refer to division highlights listed in current report. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**