

West Groton Water Supply District
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
September 17, 2024

Meeting was called to order @ 6:00 PM. The following were in attendance:

Bob Blood, Josh West, Commissioners
Paul W. Curtin, General Manager
Dawn Priest, Treasurer

Review of the Monthly Minutes: The July 2024 Monthly Minutes were approved and accepted.

Review of Monthly Invoices/Treasurer's Report: The July and August 2024 invoices were approved and accepted.

Review of Profit & Loss Statement: The Profit & Loss Statement for 07/01/23 – 08/31/2024 was approved and accepted.

Report of the General Manager

Lead & Copper – All samples have been returned, and we are waiting for the last three to come back from the lab.

Garage Renovation Update – The garage doors have been installed. Electric work is 90% done. The gable ends were stripped and resided, with vents cut in on both ends. The insulation for the ceiling was delivered. We decided to use metal sheets instead of sheetrock for ceiling, for future maintenance ease and accessibility. Once the ceiling is done the electrician will come back to finish lighting.

Remaining work to be done includes exterior paint, new man door, heat, and grading. Paul is thinking propane heat makes the most sense, and we are pricing options for that. We will also be moving the pipe rack and have decided to keep the trees previously considered to take down.

Rail Trail Extension – Peter Cunningham (Groton Board of Selectman) stopped into the office regarding the rail trail. Paul raised concerns regarding parking. Peter believes no one will park there because it is not “an end” of the trail. Paul spoke with Bob Bostwick (Mass DEP), and sent a plan showing the location of the proposed rail trail in relation to our wells. Bob is not concerned about passive recreation, but is concerned regarding paring/motorized vehicles. If the rail trail extension proceeds, we will need to install a gate across the access road as well as across the driveway to the office, and will need to shut down all vehicle access to the area, including River Classroom, as Mass DEP does not want vehicles parking in Zone 1.

Expenses will be incurred in the event that the rail trail extension takes place, such as access gates, signage, additional security cameras, etc. We will need to obtain pricing. Bob suggested that we install remote access gates if it proceeds.

We discussed sending a request to the Town to be kept informed regarding the rail trail project status/discussions, and a possible cost share request for the expenses we will incur in the event it proceeds. It was decided to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Other Business

Paul will be out of the country, leaving September 23rd and returning to the office on October 7th. Alex is ready to handle any issues that may arise along with the day-to-day tasks. Both Groton Water Department and Shirley Water Department staff are available to help with anything or answer any questions, but Paul has full confidence in Alex's ability to handle everything.

We will select a date for the October 2024 monthly meeting once Paul has returned from his vacation.

The Groton Assessor has requested an updated list of which properties are subject to the Water District Tax. Dawn is working on going through the list of properties that they have provided. Once she has gone through everything and spoken to our attorney, we will invite the Groton Assessor and Tax Collector to a meeting to discuss.

Dawn had a meeting with our attorney, David Doneski, to discuss various loose ends, including the District Tax, the assessor's request for an updated property list, what steps need to be taken regarding extending the district boundary to include the new Hayes Woods subdivision, the West Groton Water Realty Trust, and a few other housekeeping items. The three initial priorities identified in that meeting are: (1) the district tax/assessor's list; (2) the realty trust; and (3) the district boundaries extension. Dawn is in the process of gathering information Attorney Doneski has asked for regarding those three prioritized topics.

The FY2024 audit has been completed.

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Dearth

Clerk