

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. in the South Hearing Room, Hingham Town Hall.

Commissioners Present:

Kirk Shilts, Chair; Robert Higgins and Stephen Harold

Department Personnel & Staff Present:

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; and Liz Welch, DPW Office Administrator.

Commissioners Message:

Dr. Shilts welcomed back Mr. Harold from an extended absence.

Agenda:

The Commission reviewed the draft agenda. The Commission decided to postpone the election of chair until May, as when it is typically done.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Harold, to approve the agenda as amended; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the minutes. Dr. Shilts suggested some minor changes.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to approve the July 10, 2018 minutes as amended; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sewer Connection Discussion:

15 Spruce Street

Mr. Dempsey excused himself from the meeting as he is a resident of Spruce Street and sat in the audience.

Mr. Sylvester explained that 15 Spruce is required to hook into sewer because of a failed septic system. He said the property owner has paid a betterment and therefore has the right to connect, but there is no sewer line in the street. Spruce Street is a private way so it is the owner's responsibility to install a sewer line through either Oak Street or Hull Street.

Town of Hingham



Mr. Dan Gilbert, the property owner, presented a proposed plan to install the sewer line up Spruce Street to Oak Street to Pine Street comprising approximately 500 feet of line. He preferred this to running the sewer line down Spruce St. which would be approximately 600 feet to Hull Street. Mr. Ralph Schirmer of 13 Spruce Street also supported the plan.

The Commission explained to Mr. Gilbert that he is required to submit engineering plans to the Sewer Dept. which will be reviewed by the Town's engineer at the owner's expense. The Sewer Dept. will also observe the installation.

Mr. Higgins made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Harold, to support the conceptual plan to run a private sewer line from 15 Spruce Street up Spruce Street to Oak Street to Pine Street as proposed by property owner Dan Gilbert; conditional that engineering plans are submitted to the Commission for peer review at the property owner's expense; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Sewer Connection Discussion:

1 Foley Court

Mr. Jim Randall, the former property owner of 1 Foley Court, said the property's septic system failed Title 5 back in July. He said as a condition of the sale, he is responsible to repair or replace the septic system. He said the Board of Health is requiring the property be serviced by town sewer. Mr. Randall would like to connect into the existing sewer line that 2 Foley Ct. and 3 Foley Ct. use which runs through the back of the Hingham Housing Authority (State) property to Thaxter St. He said both 2 & 3 Foley Ct. were connected 20 years ago. Mr. Randall said the alternative is to go 350 feet down Foley Court where there are wetlands and ledge, which could become very costly.

Mr. Randall said the Hingham Housing Authority (HHA) Executive Director of said she was advised not to allow a connection on HHA property unless there is an engineering plan. He was also told the tenants at the HHA did not wish to have construction going-on the property. Mr. Randall explained he is willing to obtain an engineering plan but needs some help from the Commission in trying to resolve this matter.

The Commission explained that the HHA runs the business but the State owns the land. The Commission advised Mr. Randall to contact the State to work out an easement arrangement. The Commission would like to see all three properties connect through the existing infrastructure. The Commission also explained it would need to review the engineering plans as well.

Mr. Harold made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to support a proposed connection of 1 Foley Court to the Hingham sewer system through the existing sewer infrastructure that 2 Foley Court and 3 Foley Court presently utilize; conditional that engineering plans are submitted to the Commission for peer review at the property owner's expense; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan (CWMP) Update:

Town of Hingham



Dr. Shilts reviewed what was last discussed at the March meeting including the different built-out scenarios from the South Hingham Study Group's report. He reviewed the Group's report identifying four (4) potential build-out scenarios. Scenario #1 (south side of Rt. 3) with projected wastewater flow at around 60,000 gallons per day (gpd), scenario #2 (south side of Rt. 3, east side including the Derby Street Shoppes and Bristol Brother's properties) at 184,000 gpd, scenario #3 (same properties but greater usage) at 378,000 gpd, and scenario #4 at 590,000 gpd. He reminded the Commission that Town Engineer Fernandes said scenario #4 reflects the maximum build-out allowed by zoning which is somewhat unrealistic and probably should be excluded from the CWMP.

He reminded the Commission that Mr. Fernandes said the DEP wants a completed CWMP that describes projected flows, where to send it, and a greater level of detail of actual treatment than the draft CWMP had provided. Dr. Shilts said if we are going to get the CWMP approved, we need to explain what the demand might be and a discharge location. He said Mr. Fernandes identified four (4) potential discharge locations through his work with the Town Administrator including the maximum flow that each site could likely accept. These included the Dwyer Parcel at 20,000-30,000gpd, Recreational Park Drive at 30,000-40,000gpd, Boston Golf at 100,000-190,000gpd, and the South Shore Country Club (SSCC) at 600,000-800,000gpd. Dr. Shilts said the Commission decided in March that either scenario #2 or #3 should be the CWMP's principle plan. He said although the SSCC can accommodate the flows, its significant distance from South Hingham makes it a challenging discharge location. He suggested the Commission consider scenario #2.

Dr. Shilts went on to explain that the Derby Street Shoppes septic system has been failing for years. They are currently permitted for 54,000 gpd and would like to expand to 63,000 gpd, which would not only require a new soil absorption system but a new reserve area as well. An expansion of use would also require changes to the treatment plant. He said the Board of Health will be addressing this matter next week. Dr. Shilts said a definitive CWMP could serve as a mitigating factor and allow the Derby Street Shoppes to expand without requiring a separate reserve area because they would be relying on the Town's sewer system as their back-up, when eventually built.

The Commission will ask Mr. Fernandes for more specificity about the Boston Golf option.

Sewer Rules and Regulations Update:

Dr. Shilts explained that he spoke with Town Counsel Coughlin for 45 minutes about the proposed regulatory updates. He said Atty. Coughlin would research how individual units could be billed if flow meters were used in private subdivisions and developments. Mr. Sylvester explained the Sewer Dept.'s billing systems divides the bills equally amongst the units. Atty. Coughlin was also going to look at requiring an "as-built" for private sewer systems. Mr. Sylvester said he will set up a time to speak with Atty. Coughlin about these issues.

Sewer Abatements:

The Commission reviewed sewer bill abatements from residents of 14 North Street, 186 Downer Avenue, 129 Rockland Street and 2 Forget Me Not Lane.

Town of Hingham



Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Harold to approve the submitted abatements for 14 North Street for \$3,108.60; 186 Downer Avenue for \$178.20; 129 Rockland Street, \$1,247.40; and 2 Forget Me Not Lane, \$742.50; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Scheduling:

The next meeting was not scheduled. Mr. Sylvester said a December meeting would likely be necessary to approve the FY2020 Sewer Dept. Budget and the Preliminary FY2019 Sewer Bill will need to be signed-off.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Welch,
DPW Office Administrator

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda 11/5/18*
- *Draft meeting minutes of 7/10/18*
- *Various GIS maps of the Spruce Street neighborhoods*
- *Email from James P. Randall, regarding 1 Foley Court dated 10/29/18*