

**WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS  
May 3, 2021**

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 and Commissioners Jeffrey P. Wechsler and Scott Bender; Director David A. Cohen, Assistant Director Jeffrey Azano-Brown; Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr., Water & Sewer Superintendent William J. Shaughnessy, Assistant Water & Sewer Superintendent Meghan Condon; Executive Assistant Debra Sumner; and Advisory Committee Liaison William Maynard.

Chair Korpi called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

**CITIZEN SPEAK**

Chair Korpi provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works. No citizen called into the meeting and no one chose to speak.

**DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

**Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Preparation.** Director Cohen and the Board briefly referred to Article 18 – Grove Street Reconstruction and Article 19 – MWRA Sewer Loan Authorization both of which were anticipated to come before ATM for approval that evening.

The Director also notified the Board that updated information related to the reopening of the Reusables Area is being finalized for inclusion on the website, as well as Twitter.

**PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoralkyl) Results.** The Director began by explaining that in October 2020 the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) promulgated regulations to require communities the size of Wellesley to start testing its water for PFAS in April 2021. The first test was conducted on April 21 and the results were received April 30. Upon receipt of the findings, as a precautionary measure, the Moses Pond Treatment Plant was taken offline, as those test results exceeded the 20 parts per trillion (ppt) threshold established by the DEP. For both the Wellesley Avenue and Rosemary Longfellow Treatment Plant, the results were below the maximum level. Director Cohen confirmed that upon learning of the sampling results, in addition to the Board of Public Works, he notified the Board of Health, Executive Director Meghan Jop and had a conference call with the DEP.

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Mr. Cohen explained these are human made chemicals, which have been present since the 1950s and used to make stain-resistant, water-resistant, non-stick products and firefighting foam. While manufacturing items containing these chemicals ceased in the U.S., they are present in some imported products.

The Director conveyed the DEP agreed and confirmed it would have been their recommendation to take the Morses Pond plant offline. The next step is to await the results of confirmatory sampling. Additional sampling will be conducted in June and, depending upon those results, additional rounds of sampling may be required. Director Cohen then invited the Board to convey any thoughts and suggestions they have related to next steps.

Chair Korpi confirmed awareness that the Town of Natick has a well on the other side of Morses Pond and inquired about the comparison in rates of the results between the Towns. Director Cohen confirmed that Wellesley's rate was higher. It was acknowledged that at this point it is speculative to attempt to identify potential sources of PFAS.

A discussion ensued in which the Board explored various considerations and potential impacts this matter may have on residents and others on a day-to-day basis.

Chair Korpi began by reiterating the top three priorities associated with this issue, each of which is being addressed. The first priority is safety. The second priority is to interact with regulatory authorities. The third priority is communication with the community.

Mr. Cohen emphasized the importance of observing and interacting with peer communities with similar experience. He reported the Town of Natick has been dealing with this matter since November and conveyed it could take 6-9 months to finalize that Town's plan. He highlighted the public education aspect being prepared for BPW and DEP approval of formal messages. These communications would include a mailing and information on the website.

Following the discussion, Chair Korpi confirmed that this is a very complicated story to share with the community and conveyed it is her hope that the conservation piece will be further developed prior to the next meeting.

In closing, Director Cohen extended his thanks to all staff including Bill Shaughnessy, Meghan Condon, Chris Cusack, Jeff Azano Brown, Dave Hickey, and their teams, all of whom provided time and energy as tremendous resources in response to dealing with sampling and other required efforts.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:



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**Scott Bender**  
**Secretary**

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021**

**PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE &  
ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

**5:00 PM**

**4:00 PM**

<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html>

**AGENDA**

- Call to Order
  - A. Citizen Speak
  - B. Annual Town Meeting Preparation
  - C. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl) Substances) Discussion**
  - D. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair prior to posting, if any
  - E. New Business
- Adjournment

**REMOTE MEETING PROTOCOL**

Members of the public can watch the live meeting online:

<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html> The meeting will be live on local cable TV COMCAST 8 and VERIZON 40. Residents seeking to participate in Citizen Speak, or any other agenda item, should e-mail [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov) prior to the meeting and a number will be assigned for speakers. All residents seeking to participate shall call into 781-489-7747 (Conference Line) and await the announcement of your assigned number to speak. Individuals wishing to participate who have not received a number shall be asked at the end of the agenda item if they would like to speak before the Board moves on to the next agenda item.