

WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS
August 8, 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; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown, Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr., Executive Assistant Debra Sumner; and Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen.

Members of the Pettigrew family who participated remotely included Robert and Linda Pettigrew and son Ryan Pettigrew, all of whom reside at 9 Geraldine Drive. Daughter Vanessa Pettigrew also participated in a portion of the Citizen Speak discussion.

Chair Korpi called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

CITIZEN SPEAK

Chair Korpi provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Ryan Pettigrew, introduced himself and explained he was initiating the call on behalf of his parents, to raise the matter of their driveway having been washed out again today due to the recent heavy rains and referred to several questions he has related to this matter.

Mr. Pettigrew suggested that, to him, the main problem seems to be the restriction of flow underneath the train tracks located behind their house, which he conveyed causes a backup onto their property and presents a major issue. He posed the question whether the catch basin adjacent to the railroad tracks had been dug out recently, between the first and this most recent storm. He then referred to the HydroCAD model done some time ago and a number of related questions.

Town Engineer Hickey acknowledged that the Town experienced several large rain events causing recent first round of damage, which was repaired as soon as possible by a Highway Division crew. He then referred to the timeline of rain events which followed. Mr. Hickey confirmed a work order has been created to clean that structure as it is difficult to access due to the need to go through an easement behind the property, combined with the need for it to be cleaned by hand. While Mr. Hickey acknowledged he is aware it is an issue, he conveyed he does not consider it to be the primary issue related to today's rain events.

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Mr. Pettigrew responded that it is his perspective that the main cause of the driveway's flooding problem is due to a "Y" connection needing to be dug to prevent the flow from going underneath the railroad tracks. He suggested the restriction is the primary reason why the driveway fills up with water. Mr. Pettigrew conveyed that while he respects the fact the Town Engineer has a different perspective, he does not see it that way.

Mr. Pettigrew's next question was related to when the structural integrity of the pipe that was alleged to have a 20-year life span was last inspected and if the structural integrity is a problem.

Town Engineer Hickey responded that the last video inspection was conducted approximately two years ago. Mr. Hickey conveyed he considered the results to be very good and therefore does not share the same level of concern as expressed by Mr. Pettigrew. Mr. Hickey added that it is his understanding, per prior conversations with Robert Pettigrew, it depends on the water table and on the quantity of the water flowing through it.

Mr. Hickey assured Mr. Pettigrew that prior to proposing a solution, additional video will be examined to review the structural capacity, which was not a primary concern in the last video. Mr. Hickey conveyed he believes the modeling work adequately represents the pipes in the immediate vicinity and the entire network. He recommended the Pettigrew's plan to attend a future meeting to discuss the matter in greater detail, as well as to discuss the HydroCAD model shared two years ago.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the adequacy of that model. Mr. Pettigrew conveyed one thing the HydroCAD model does not address is the drain at the bottom of the driveway as the water enters the drainage system at top of driveway and then takes a 90 degree turn. It is Mr. Pettigrew's contention that the model done was inadequate and needs to be improved upon. He predicted that any solution to this problem is going to require the railroad company's participation to resolve ongoing the issue. Mr. Pettigrew conveyed he is asking the DPW to have the remodeling be redone as what was done previously was insufficient to convince the railroad of the need for its participation in the resolution.

Town Engineer Hickey referred to technical aspects to be reviewed and acknowledged that the entrance and exit issues are valid but to better understand how the network is performing is not the issue upon which to focus. Mr. Hickey explained that based on these last two storms there is material in the pipe when the water goes down a gravel driveway. He conveyed, if there is a need for repairs to be made to the driveway again, the drive should be covered with asphalt as that will not result in material being washed out of the driveway and eliminate one issue.

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Chair Korpi recommended a meeting be arranged for the Pettigrew's to attend, which she would be willing to attend along with Engineering Division staff, as well as the Town's consultants on the matter. In reply to Mr. Pettigrew's invitation for Commissioner Wechsler to attend the future meeting because he was familiar with the issue, Mr. Wechsler expressed his willingness to contribute feedback but conveyed he may be unavailable to attend the meeting, itself. Mr. Wechsler assured Mr. Pettigrew that if he is unavailable to attend, he and Ms. Korpi would be in contact to keep him apprised of the discussion.

Vanessa Pettigrew joined the meeting. She concurred with what had been discussed and conveyed that she had been aware of this drainage issue for 40 years. Ms. Pettigrew emphasized the issue impacts several neighborhoods and is becoming a Town issue. She expressed that while the issue may be centralized near Route 9, the matter should be elevated beyond a single neighborhood.

Ms. Korpi assured Ms. Pettigrew that an escalating budget has been created as a better way of financing the upgrade of the Town-wide stormwater infrastructure as a Town-wide challenge.

Ms. Korpi conveyed she heard a shared concern and looks forward to meeting to discuss the matter at greater length with all parties involved. She also acknowledged that she was made aware, through DPW staff meeting notes, that this topic has been under consideration for some time. Ms. Korpi also conveyed that at this year's Annual Town Meeting, a Stormwater Utility was created due to climate change, combined with the advent of more intense weather events and stricter requirements of the quality of our stormwater needs, to invest more in stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Pettigrew emphasized he looks at the matter as making issues as public facing as possible and as a helpful way to get them resolved. He has additional questions to be addressed at the upcoming meeting.

Ms. Korpi expressed her appreciation to the Pettigrew's for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Board. She reemphasized the focus to be directed on this matter and technical discussion to be conducted with those staff members and consultants well versed in the matter.

Ms. Korpi acknowledged the Pettigrew's experience is an example and underlines why the Board of Public Works and DPW staff have made it a priority to upgrade the stormwater infrastructure.

In conclusion, Mr. Wechsler took the opportunity to express his appreciation for any resident in Town to bring any conditions of concern to the attention of the Board.

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Following a half hour discussion on this topic, at 5:30 p.m. Chair Korpi recommended that the discussion continue to be held at a separate meeting to focus only on that matter. Ms. Korpi requested that Town Engineer Hickey select proposed times the week of August 21 for a meeting, which she, members of the DPW staff and Pettigrew family members attend to continue this discussion.

Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Chair Korpi invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any information to the attention of the Board and Staff. Mr. Pedersen conveyed he did not have any inquiries at this time. He confirmed Advisory Committee Meetings, with six newly appointed members would resume the end of this month.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Statement of Fact – Sidewalks & Curbing Installation and Replacement – Contract #24C-420-1720. Assistant Director Azano-Brown referred to the bid recommendation prepared by Project Manager Michael Quinn, and upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Mr. Bender, the Board unanimously,

VOTED: That Contract 24C-420-1720 for Sidewalks and Curbing Installations and Replacement be awarded to M. Neves Inc., 78 Gridley Town Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 for a total bid price of \$191,725.00 (3-0).

Mr. Wechsler – Aye

Mr. Bender – Aye

Ms. Korpi – Aye

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Sewer and Drainage Easement Relocation at 49 Cranmore Road. Town Engineer Hickey reviewed the recommendation for approval of this easement prepared by Assistant Town Engineer George Saraceno. Mr. Hickey conveyed that this is a residential construction project, the purpose of which is to create more space in the front of the house to be better situated on the lot.

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

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VOTED: That the Board of Public Works approved the Abandonment of Existing 25' Wide Utility Easement and 8' Wide Sewer Easement and Grant of Sewer and Drainage Easement for 49 Cranmore Road, Wellesley, MA, as presented in the associated documentation (3-0).

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

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

Irrigation Well Applications. Following Assistant Director Brown's reference to two Irrigation Well Application requests for Board approval, a discussion ensued regarding the recent increase in the number of requests submitted, as compared to past years. While an explanation for the increase could not be confirmed, the Board expressed its support for geothermal wells. It was the consensus of the Board that Staff revisit the permitting requirements and give consideration to the potential need for revision.

Irrigation Well Application – 9 Peirce Road. Assistant Director Azano-Brown referred to the recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson.

Following a brief discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the request on the Application to Drill a Well, as presented, for the drilling of an irrigation well at 9 Peirce Road, Wellesley, MA, as requested by the property owner, Mr. Dean Behrend (3-0).

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

Irrigation Well Application – 20 Old Farm Road. Assistant Director Azano Brown referred to the recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson.

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

VOTED: To approve the request on the Application to Drill a Well, as presented, for the drilling of an irrigation well at 20 Old Farm Road, Wellesley, MA, as requested by the property owner, Lisa A. Hilinski Trust (3-0).

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Scott Bender

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Scott Bender
Secretary

REVISED 8/04/2023

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AGENDA
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023
5:00 PM**

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

Call to Order – Open Session

- A. Citizen Speak
- B. Advisory Committee Liaison Update
- C. Director's Items
- D. Contract Award – Sidewalks & Curbing Installation and Replacement
- E. Sewer and Drainage Easement Relocation
49 Cranmore Road
- F. **Irrigation Well Application – 9 Peirce Road**
- G. **Irrigation Well Application – 20 Old Farm Road**
- H. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair prior to posting, if any
- I. 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 9 and VERIZON 39. Residents seeking to participate in Citizen Speak, or any other agenda item, should e-mail 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.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
August 8, 2023
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Korpi to call the remote online meeting to order at ____ PM.

Ms. Korpi to announce: “This meeting is being streamed live on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 39 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at Wellesley Media.org.”

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

B. 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.**

C. DIRECTOR’S ITEMS

D. STATEMENT OF FACT – SIDEWALKS & CURBING INSTALLATION AND REPLACEMENT – CONTRACT #24C-420-1720. Assistant Director to refer to bid recommendation prepared by Project Manager Michael Quinn. **BOARD APPROVAL & SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

E. SEWER & DRAINAGE EASEMENT RELOCATION – 49 CRANMORE ROAD. Assistant Director to refer to recommendation for approval prepared by Assistant Town Engineer George Saraceno. **BOARD APPROVAL AND CHAIR KORPI’S ORIGINAL SIGNATURE REQUESTED ON DOCUMENTATION.**

F. IRRIGATION WELL REQUEST – 9 PEIRCE ROAD. Assistant Director to refer to recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson. **BOARD VOTE AND APPROVAL REQUESTED AS SHOWN BELOW:**

Upon motion duly made by _____ and seconded by _____, the Board was polled and it was

VOTED: To approve the request on the Application to Drill a Well, as presented, for the drilling of an irrigation well at 9 Peirce Road, Wellesley, MA, as requested by the property owner, Mr. Dean Behrend, (3-0).

G. IRRIGATION WELL REQUEST 20 OLD FARM ROAD. Assistant Director to refer to recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson. **BOARD VOTE AND APPROVAL REQUESTED AS SHOWN BELOW.**

Upon motion duly made by _____ and seconded by _____, the Board was polled and it was

VOTED: To approve the request on the Application to Drill a Well, as presented, for the drilling of an irrigation well at 20 Old Farm Road, Wellesley, MA, as requested by the property owner, Lisa A. Hilinski Trust (3-0).