

Approved October 19, 2022

**Advisory Committee Meeting  
Zoom Video Conference  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included Shawn Baker, Doug Smith, Madison Riley, Rani Elwy, Gail Sullivan, David Prock, Bill Schauffler, Pete Pedersen, Jeff Levitan, Al Ferrer, Jenn Fallon, Christina Dougherty, Wendy Paul

Shawn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and introduced members of Advisory in attendance.

**Citizen Speak**

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

David Cohen, Director, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Scott Bender, Chair, Board of Public Works (BPW) were present and provided an overview of DPW, upcoming projects and an update of the Walnut Street Project.

**DPW Key Projects:**

*PFAS Update:*

- The interim system is working and the Morses Pond well has non-detect results.
- Preparations are being made for the winter and pipes are being winterized.
- DPW will be budgeting an amount that will extend the interim solution an additional 16 months beyond the initial 16 months. Given the timing, these funds won't be needed until the end of FY24.
- DPW is awaiting new regulations from the EPA. A health advisory was issued this summer by the EPA. Due to this regulatory uncertainty DPW is holding off on a permanent solution. The understanding is that for some of the PFAS compounds the level might be dramatically lower than what is in place now.
- DPW continues discussions with the MWRA regarding a second connection. The MWRA is in favor of doing this. DPW is watching the grant landscape to make sure all available funding is exhausted.
- DPW is watching a trend at the Rosemary/Longfellow wells. DPW had been planning to do some well re-development at that site. If there is an issue this could affect the re-development of this well.

**Questions:**

- How interim is the system?
  - It was designed to run for 16 months. At some point there will be break through and PFAS will not be a non-detect. The interim system is permitted by DEP, but the filtration media will need to be replaced.
- What is the source for the PFAS problem?
  - There is no identified trend. Some towns have a specific source and know where the PFAS originates but Wellesley has not seen this single specific source.
- MWRA is happy to sell more water and they see this potential connection as a regional solution.
- Does DPW think the budget of PFAS is sufficient given inflation and supply chain issues.
  - It is being closely tracked and we will know more over the next couple of months.
- What are Wellesley's water sources today?
  - There are four sources – three local well fields plus the MWRA source. Last summer with Morses Pond well down, 80 to 90% of the water was from MWRA. Now we are

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down to 70% with the Morses Pond well back online. MWRA is twice as expensive as locally produced water.

- There is a sense is that the EPA is trying to fast track regulations, anticipating that regs will be in place by the end of 2023.
- There have been two recent retirements with many years of experience in the Water Department at DPW.

*Walnut Street upgrade:*

- Walnut Street project has been underway for 8 to 9 weeks. The first part of the project is working underground on drainage. This will be wrapped before winter. There have been supply chain issues with this project particularly with curbing. Based on a revised schedule the work will take place in the spring. Overall project is still on track to completed by this time next year. Updates are on DPW's website.

**Questions:**

- Do you need more money for Walnut Street?
  - No. There is a contract in place. The project will be brought in at or under budget.

*Stormwater Utility:*

- This will come to ATM for authorization and funding.
- There has been great deal of planning and meetings with a variety of stakeholders. Meetings are recorded and are on the DPW website.
- Key benefit of a Stormwater Enterprise Fund is it provides an equitable way to finance the future costs of stormwater.
- ERU is equivalent residential unit.
- Fee proposal is \$225 per ERU. 3,500 sf of impermeable area will cost \$225. The system proposed will have four tiers - .7 ERU, 1 ERU, 1.7 ERU, the 4<sup>th</sup> tier is for all larger properties. The first three tiers make up 90% of the town.
- Next step is to meet with internal partners to address their concerns and what implementation will look like.
- Need to finalize some things – like how a homeowner can get credits.
- There is a revenue need of \$3 million and this number will fluctuate \$1.7 million is in the budget right now for the stormwater program that currently exists. If the Stormwater Enterprise fund is not approved we will need to look to the general fund to fund this.
- DPW is producing two budgets this year – to see where the pluses and minuses are the in budget of Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

**Questions**

- Will there be education on how residents can earn credits?
  - Yes, we will be focusing on education. The EPA views education as an important part of the stormwater program. More information will be available this winter.
- What is the Stormwater Enterprise Fund trying to accomplish when it is based on the amount of impervious area a property has?
  - It is making it more equitable. Educational institutions currently don't contribute but they will under this plan. There are new requirements that we will have to meet. This is to create a sustainable fund to pay for programs. It is a more equitable way to share the costs of the program and to be prepared for the future.
- Do permeable road surfaces have anything to do with this? Will Walnut Street have a permeable surface?

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- Walnut Street is not a permeable surface as it is not an appropriate surface for a roadway. Parking lots can be permeable surfaces. Various projects can have road diet (reduced roadway) and green infrastructure.
- Could these make their way to zoning?
  - Yes
- Is there an example of a credit that someone could do?
  - This is to be determined but a property owner could create infiltration on site. The footprint of the driveway could be changed to handle storm water so it does not go down the driveway and into the street. But might be expensive to do these and the costs might outweigh the benefits.
- Does the town know the square footage of impermeable space for each property?
  - We have good records through the GIS system and the Property Viewer.
- A comment was made that public education of this is very important and that outreach should be done first to TMM.
- A comment was made about a discussion between FMD and DPW regarding capital projects and safety issues?
  - The DPW team identified immediate needs. But there are other needs DPW has. There are structural systems and program needs that have emerged since the buildings were built. DPW has pushed the design out and construction is 4 or 5 years out. DPW will adapt and figure out how to make it work.
  - Renting trailers has been considered to provide more appropriate space.
  - Town has been supportive of DPW. The DPW building is 10 years old.
- A question was asked about recruitment and hiring to replace the 70 years of experience DPW is losing through the two retirements.
  - The general foreman position will be filled internally. DPW tries to create an environment where people stay. The superintendent position is posted, and we will see what the market will bring.

### **Minutes Approval**

Jenn Fallon made, and Al Ferrer seconded a motion to approve the September 28, 2022, minutes

### **Roll Call Vote**

Jennifer Fallon – yes

Jake Erhard – absent

Jeff Levitan – yes

Doug Smith – yes

Susan Clapham – absent

Al Ferrer – yes

Wendy Paul – yes

Pete Pedersen – yes

Madison Riley – yes

Rani Elwy – abstain

Christina Dougherty – yes

Gail Sullivan – yes

David Prock -yes

William Schauffler – yes

**September 28, 2022, minutes were approved, 11 to 0.**

### **Administrative items**

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- Bids are expected on the Town Hall interior renovation and will be evaluated and compiled and finalized at the October 20 PBC meeting. The Select Board also needs to approve the final number and this needs to be presented to Advisory and voted on by Advisory.

### **Liaison Reports**

*PBC/Jeff Levitan* – an update of the recent PBC meeting was provided and concern was expressed about the budget for the Hardy school, and it was stated that the opening plan may be threatened due to cost escalation.

*Schools/Rani Elwy and Jenn Fallon* – updates of two School Committee meetings were provided: The A Better Chance (ABC) program was highlighted; there was a townwide event for elementary schools – all students received t-shirts; a report on enrollment; changes and approved district goals; Dr. Jorge Allen is the new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; a new position of Director of Community Engagement was created and filled by Sharon Gray; FY22 turnback of \$1.3 million due to challenges of hiring and the reduction of out of district placements; the Hardy facilities project was discussed as there is an issue with the budget and School Committee wants to make sure there is parity between Hardy and Hunnewell and not reduce things in Hardy; the Superintendent contract was approved for 4 years.

*BOH/Christina Dougherty* – an update of the recent meeting was provided; public flu clinics are being offered; new ideas for outreach was discussed; There was a vote to approve a geothermal well on site 148 Washington St.: BOH plans to address mental health more; the move has been completed and Healthy Wellesley funds were used for some of the office needs.

*CAC/Gail Sullivan* – an update of the recent meeting was provided. The opt in stretch code was discussed and this will require a town meeting vote; CAC hoping to co-sponsor this with the SB; PACE – property access clean energy program was discussed and there was an update on the Green Collaborative.

*Select Board/Doug Smith* – an update of last night's meeting was provided; there was a joint meeting with HR Board to discuss salary increases for the coming year as the town is having a hard time retaining and incenting good performers. Budget guidelines are 3% for town depts and schools.

*NRC/Al Ferrer* – a review of NRC's recent retreats was provided.

*Planning/Madison Riley* – updated FEMA maps are delayed to later 2023/2024; there may be updates at ATM to the tree management and Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaws .

### **Adjourn**

Pete Pedersen made, and Jenn Fallon seconded a motion to adjourn.

### **Roll Call Vote**

Jennifer Fallon – yes

Jake Erhard – absent

Jeff Levitan - yes

Doug Smith – yes

Susan Clapham – absent

Al Ferrer - yes

Wendy Paul – yes

Pete Pedersen - yes

Madison Riley – yes

Rani Elwy - yes

Christina Dougherty - yes

Gail Sullivan – yes

David Prock -absent

William Schauffler - yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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