



COHASSET SEWER COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

*In Attendance:* William McGowan, Chairman      Brian Joyce  
Wayne Sawchuk, Clerk                              Pam Fahey  
Paul Kierce, Member                                 Dan Coughlin

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 @ 10:00am

Cook Estate: (Jean Livingston; Jane Reardon; Ali; Pam Fahey)

BJoyce opens meeting with an update on next steps to move forward. SHardy needs to further the design with drawings being more specific of where the pipe is going to go. up the driveway along the grass area in front of the school area so not as much in the road. He also sent email to school for comments Assessors office completed bedroom count; water use records was requested to BDouglas; SHardy waiting for quote from surveyor about obstacles; BJoyce suggests get onto the grass and off the road as soon as possible. A full set of design plans need to be submitted. A sketch was submitted to CSC - GIS map with red line showing concept route. BJoyce talked to SHardy about adding utility survey and design detail to sketch. SHardy is the point person. PFahey drafted warrant article in case it is required - will confirm with Town council. The only way sewer district can be expanded is by town meeting or public emergency. This is a public health emergency. Properties that have frontage along the route can connect. DPiatt will research if Old Colony program can be used and how much it will cost - that is still funded by town. Not sure where the 5% interest came from; there is an application/amin fee that goes to Old Colony. The town is still pulling a bond from Mass Greenwater Trust; town still does the management of the money coming in. Financial discussion continues regarding ARCA funds. Discussion on Act 2013 Chapter 137; Section 16 is about a sewer district. If the town is paying for the installation then this will trigger the prevailing wage. The plan is to use the existing infrastructure and the cost would be EDU cost and bringing to end of deer hill and to the entrance area and the cost of connecting and refitting the existing system. Section 7 is about financial operation of sewer system being an enterprise fund (betterments are made in the enterprise fund). However, we are not going under that provision because CSC is not paying for this. CJC is totally different project. If we need to borrow money, it needs to go to town meeting. The sewer budget does not have a 1/2 million to do this project. The sewer commission is not doing this project, but only allowing Cook to connect to sewer. It may be that Cook applies for an easement to go over private property - this may be a method to limit the tie ins to Cook Estate. The line is extending from Deer Hill to Cook Estate and it is going to privately funded. Condo Association will determine the assessment to each resident for the entire amount. One application to sewer commission, will be assessed EDU's and will determine how much each house has to pay (depends on if they have 1,2,3, 4 bedrooms). The construction cost will be paid by assessing each property. They will have to figure out how to finance the costs assessed and potentially a loan. This would have to be put in front of the SB and Town manager. DPiatt will make TM aware that this is coming down. PFahey will check with Attorney regarding line extension or new sewer district. The answer will help us determine what funding is and is not available. Discussion to continue at next meeting.

Beer Garden - 12 Parking Way: (Split Rock Cofounder and owner : Erin Herman; Ryan Hilton)

Permanent structure Project: Beer Garden in the back lot behind 12 Parking Way. Submitted documents on Friday; The proposal for 3 EDUs based on title 5 and lounge / tavern is different model since it is



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seasonal and outdoor only. They looked at Suffolk county in New York. 7.5 gpd/seat and they used that as a baseline. 450 gpd which is about 1 EDU. Not operating at a full business and based on that they did some research on some other beer garden hours in the Boston area and in the state of Massachusetts and determined they are about 75% of those hours and calculated 75% of \$37,500 which came out to \$28,000 - they are proposing this as a countermeasure. CSC connection fees are based on the title 5 and seating count, not operational hours. The question is where the beer garden fits. Maybe contact the state to see if there are any subcategories. DCoughlin:Essentially it's 20 gals/ day/ seat for small seating. There are provisions in TitleV that allow for adjustments to that category. Maybe use water data from similar facilities in Cohasset. even in New York for actual water consumption. That flow would be doubled for the calculation It is seasonal so there would be some consideration. Maybe consider the Salt House; Best to use in state examples. PKierce suggests the Music Circus or Cape Cod Melody tent. Those 2 venues are basically beer and operate 6 months out of the year. Rosano Davis is working on the exact plan to show how tying to manhole. Keep on agenda for next week.

#### **Drainlayer License:**

Renewals for drainlayers licenses, in March 2021, it was voted to increase the drainlayer licenses from \$200 to \$1,000 per year. We are getting a little pushback from the drainlayers and comparison of what other towns charge. PKierce suggests renewals be at 25% of fee (\$250) \$1,000 for new drainlayer license and if not renewed for over 12 months. \$250 for renewals No vote required.The Harbor Hotel was given permission to relocate the sewer line - confirm they use an approved drainlayer. Also they needed a sign off of an easement so they could move the pipe.

#### **Capital Budget:**

Discussion on Capital improvements using W&C list.

Tupelo station improvement for when CJC hooks up and Deer Hill. W&C waiting for proposal from Hayes. DPiatt asks how CSC is funding our capital plan. Retained earnings. There is over \$100,000 in I/I account from 2006 All I/I work should come out of here. BJoyce requested RScott and SPapa for their assessment on Tupelo and Deer Hill - have not received response yet - he will reach out to them for an update. S. Main St sewer 3mil in 2023 and 2.4mil in 2024 SRF funding needs to see the project as a whole. So if there is \$5.4 million needed, we also need a project to be approved before its submitted. BJoyce wants to underscore importance of S Main St. plan because it needs to be paved now. The only outstanding utility is sewer. To connect N. Scituate would not be much in the way of sewer plan as it would require a larger pipe. It was supposed to be repaved 2 years ago. So we want to upgrade facilities this year and pave next year. 7million is more of the amount. And there is an importance of making decision now. BJoyce will email the estimate for cold paving and finalizing it later. He will send the budget estimate (it's a couple years old). PKierce thinks we don't have anything to send to capital. Rotary sludge thickener - \$200,000 - this is ordered LMcGonigle to follow up with W&C and update everyone. Barn Doors: last quote was for \$40,000 but they are not returning calls and we don't have a back up. Update to scada system may be complete but need to confirm the telemetry is also done. Roof repair still needs to be done - quote \$65,000 came in, awaiting on 2 more quotes. Capital is looking for 10 year plan. What we are projecting for asks at town meeting? LMcGonigle to follow up on the roof repair and sludge thickener. Right now no capital expenses for pumps not sure if it will be covered in I/I budget We only have the 65,000 and grit screw replacement. For capital items If CSC wants help with funding for capital planning, DPiatt needs a good idea of what we need. BJoyce will get update from



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W&C on items already approved at town meeting. Invite RScott and SPapa to next meeting. We need to make sure we have a good handle on what the projects are.

#### **Other Business:**

75 Hull St. - was never connected to sewer; betterment paid in full; August and November 2021 bills not paid yet; requesting an abatement for these fees = \$284.74 Additionally, to date Mr. Emanuello has paid \$7,449.49 in sewer use and grinder pump fees - he is requesting reimbursement for total amount. This also included the quarterly \$125 payment. A field visit by BJoyce and LMcGonigle confirmed he is not using sewer. There is an original Interon pump that is not active, the panel is not connected. It appears he is connected to his neighbors line #81- there is an easement. Now he would like to run his own line out to the street. Mechanism for payment was his taxes, he ignored the sewer bills and it became a lien and then paid it with his taxes. WMcGowan: we abate his bill and credit the \$7449. Signing the release could be a condition to get the refund. BJoyce thinks that if he knows there is a legal utility easement across his neighbors' property, he would just do that. He could run a 4 inch line from his house to the grinder pump and be done with it rather than chip through ledge all the way to Hull st and make a new tap on the sewer. There is no privilege fee due because he already paid the betterment in full. Since it is a joint easement it's exempt from being signed. Add it to next agenda for a vote.

MASSDOT requesting \$1,500 fee for permit fee. The application is made out to the town of Cohasset. the town pays the bill and then we invoice Staszko.

WMcGowan had a conversation with Cory Evans regarding regional sewer. The sewer board will be at the forefront of any design construction for a connection to North Scituate and also concerning the agreement with Hull. The SB signed the last IMA with Hull so they thought they were going to manage and sign a new one going forward. Will be discussed tonight at the joint meeting. WMcGowan talked to Attorney Corbo and looked at MA state law, chapter 147 to see legally where the sewer commission stands, CSC is an enterprise fund on behalf of the sewer. Attorney Corbo agreed the CSC has to keep the SB apprised of what is going on (which we do). PKierce: This is the sewer commission and decisions are made based on the best interest of the residents of the town. One of those decisions is sewerage South Main St. If there is an opportunity that allows Scituate to hook up then that's a separate decision. it shouldn't be decided by groups outside sewer commission. WSawchuk suggest anything from Scituate should go on a dedicated line to hull. There will be no overloading of our plant and it would be separate from our sewerage S. Main. It should go down the railroad bed. Acts of 2013 chapter 147 seem to imply that we have the right in Cohasset to go down the railroad bed, even though the railroad bed is now owned by the 'T'. If they want to go down 3A then fine, if they want to go down the railroad bed, and South main st should be the last choice to getting to Hull for them. PKierce hasn't seen any evidence Scituate researched anything other than the \$35million run down 3A. Not sure if they are discounting WSawchuk's ideas because the path of least resistance is to go down S. Main. No evidence suggesting they've exhausted these options. If they can go down 3A or the train line they would connect to Hull via 228.

**MOTION: WSawchuk Motions to adjourn; PKierce seconds; All in favor**

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:20pm