

PFAS Working Group - Meeting No. 1

TOWN CLERK

2023 NOV 29 PM 2:20

Meeting Date: October 30, 2023

Location: Mural Room, Town Hall

DUXBURY, MASS.

PFAS Working Group Meeting Notes approved by W&SAB members at the November 27, 2023 meeting

Working Group Members:

Working Group Project Manager - Candice Martin

WASAB Members: Tanya Trevisan, Paul Keohan and Bo Boynton

DPW Staff: Sheila Sgarzi (DPW Director) and Mark Cloud (Water Superintendent)

Technical Advice: Ryan Trahan (Environmental Partners), Sean Healey (Weston & Sampson) & James Begley (MT Environmental)

Board of Health Liaison: Melissa Rosenblatt

Select Board Liaison: Fernando Guitart with Amy McNab (visiting)

Also present

Duxbury Town Manager Staff: Mary McKinnon & Nancy O'Connor

The section below, Background, is intended to provide information about the PFAS Working Group.

Background

At the Joint Select Board/WASAB Meeting on **October 23, 2023**, the Select Board listened to presentations on mitigating PFAS6 from the Water Master Plan (Environmental Partners) and modeling of the groundwater plume from McNeil landfill (Weston & Sampson). The Select Board expressed frustration with the progress developing a plan to mitigate PFAS6 at the drinking wells. Difficulties filling vacancies in the DPW, have made it impossible to assign someone to manage this project. In response to this situation, Candace Martin, a Duxbury resident and Professional Engineer, volunteered to manage this project.

James Begley advised the Select Board that once developed, this plan will need funding. He suggested that Town obtain authorization from Town residents at the next Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in 2024. An article will need to be crafted by early December so that this funding request can be included in the ATM warrant.

The Board asked that a working group be formed to identify the tasks in this plan and the cost. The working group members should include members from the WASAB, technical advisors such as Environmental Partners, Weston & Sampson as well as James Begley along with DPW staff and liaisons from the Town Manager's Office and Board of Health. Candace Martin accepted the role of coordinating these meetings.

The Select Board also heard concerns from Bo Boynton about making the Partridge St. well the initial location for removing PFAS. He thought that removing PFAS should focus on wells that have a more significant role in producing water. The Board asked Rene Read to place a hold on the recently signed Wright Pierce contract.

At the end of the October 23, 2023 meeting, the Board asked for the WASAB's opinion on whether the Wright Pierce contract should resume.

On October 30, 2023, the Working Group Meeting was called to order shortly after 6 PM.

The objectives of this meeting were:

- Discuss whether the WASAB should recommend that the Select Board remove the hold on Wright Pierce contract at the Partridge St well
- Obtain information on the cost for a preliminary design for PFAS6 removal from all of the Town's drinking wells

Partridge Street Well

According to the Water Master Plan, the Partridge St Well is one of the oldest and smallest of the Town's drinking water wells. This well has been offline since May 2021 when PFAS6 levels were detected above the Massachusetts DEP's Maximum Level of Contamination (MCL).

The discussion began with Bo Boynton expressing his opinion that spending money to improve the Partridge St facility doesn't make economic sense. Sampling results from this well have shown PFAS levels consistently higher than any of the other wells. Bo thought that the media used to remove PFAS would need to be replaced much more often than at the wells with lower

levels. A more effective alternative for the Town is to focus on the larger wells with lower PFAS levels.

Previously, the Town applied for and received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Partridge St. well. The funding is intended to help make a facility which is not complying with drinking water standards, such as Partridge St, return to service. The technical advice is that a well that must be out of service to qualify for ARPA funding.

Melissa R. (BOH liaison) brought up the point that if the Town rejects funding for Partridge St. it could affect how the DEP scores future applications that the Town submits. It is anticipated that the MCL for PFAS6 will be lowered in the near future making it necessary to remove PFAS from several wells that are currently complying with the drinking water standards.

Ryan T (EP) explained that the Wright Pierce contract at Partridge St (currently on hold) will collect information about the well site and estimate the life of the filter media. This work would need to be followed by a more detailed effort before any improvements could be made. The Wright Pierce information would be used in the next phase, final design. Before building any improvements for removing PFAS, an engineering firm would need to be selected for final design.

After a brief discussion, Tanya T made a motion to recommend that the Select Board allow the Wright Pierce contract to proceed at the Partridge St well, Paul K seconded the motion. The motion passed 2 to 1. Tanya T. and Paul K. voted yes and Bo B. voted against.

2024 ATM Article

The Town will need authorization for funding to develop preliminary designs for each of the Town's drinking water wells. A brief discussion began about whether to make this request at the Annual Town Meeting in the Spring of 2024 or defer to a later date with a Special Town Meeting. Mary McKinnon mentioned the cost for a Special Town Meeting and the consensus was to request authorization at the ATM.

Ryan Trahan agreed to develop a cost estimate for conducting preliminary design for all the Town's drinking water wells. This work will develop a conceptual design for each well. Ryan thought that he could provide this information before the next meeting.

The next meeting for the PFAS Mitigation Plan will be on November 13, 2023. Bo B. will be available on this date. Tanya and Paul are not available.

The meeting was adjourned around 7:30 PM.

To Do List

- Review the Scope of Services for the Wright Pierce Contract and compare with the tasks listed with the cost estimate provided by Ryan T.
- Review the Town's Procurement Policy as related to procuring engineering services.
- WASAB members: vote to approve draft meeting minutes from August meeting.