

Department of Public Works  
Advisory Board Meeting  
August 23, 2005

*Approved*

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday August 23, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Dan McIntyre and Jim Pyne, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty and Highway Manager Mike Mansir. Also present was town resident Mary Pratt and Dick Jubinville from Earth Tech.

COLELLA'S MARKET STORM DRAIN

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the new drain pipe is in service and the plunge pool is being completed. The final trench patching should be done soon and as-built drawings will be prepared in the near future.

Mr. Gaucher also explained that where the new pipe enters the existing stone box culvert at the rear of Hitching's Hardware to the edge of Main Street shows evidence of deterioration and will need further inspection to determine the reliability of the structure. He said there should be enough money from the town meeting article to have this inspection done. He said the drain under Main Street is about 30 years old and is corrugated metal. At some point that pipe will probably need to be upgraded. This might be able to be done by means of a sleeve inside the existing pipe.

## ET&L UPDATE – WEST MAIN STREET

Mr. Gaucher said that he and Mr. Carty have met with Don Gillette (supervisor for ET&L) and that Mr. Gillette said he has been told to fix everything that the town has requested. The first problem addressed was the pressure test of the sewer pipe along West Main Street. Mr. Carty explained that the test the town conducted was done at the recommended pressure and pipes came apart. Mr. Gillette suggested testing the pipe at a lower pressure to determine if they would hold. Mr. Carty said even at the lower pressure a loss of about 1 gallon per minute was detected. He said the pipe may have to be dug up and tested in sections to determine where the leak is. He said Mr. Gillette has yet to respond with the detailed information.

Mr. Gaucher said he is waiting to hear from ET&L and the state for their schedule to complete the other items on the punch list.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the 2005 season road improvement contract is underway. Crack sealing is ongoing and a schedule from J.H. Lynch for paving should be received soon.

The North Mill Street Bridge has been inspected, and T. Ford Company has been asked for a quote for replacing the decking. Mr. Gaucher said new stringers are available at no cost to the town from Mass Highway, but the town will have to buy the deck boards. The inspection indicated that this work should be done first and that the support structure was

sound enough to be upgraded at a later time. Mr. Gaucher said he will be seeking estimates for the support structure work in the near future.

Mr. Gaucher said the 40B projects currently underway are going along without problem. Fay, Spofford & Thorndike have an inspector checking the daily progress and reporting back to Mr. Gaucher. Mr. Gaucher said there is a meeting later today to discuss the option of more blasting along Wood Street to improve the line of sight near the 495 bridge. The board requested that Mr. Gaucher schedule a meeting with the Planning Board Chair, Zoning Board Chair and Selectmen Chair to discuss the option of hiring a town engineer to work on these and other projects requiring constant inspection.

Mr. Sonnett said he had spoken to Mr. Phipps of 353 Wood Street regarding some trees that were cut several years ago and stumps left in the ground. Mr. Phipps has said he spoke to Mr. Gaucher about the town removing the stumps but recently Mr. Gaucher has changed his mind. Mr. Gaucher said that he was not employed by the town when the trees were cut, and there was some question as to who cut them and why and at the time Mr. Phipps spoke to him about removing the stumps he believed the stumps were within the right of way. Upon investigation he said he has determined the stumps are outside the right of way, thus the reason he has not had them removed. The board suggested that the stumps should be removed by the town, regardless of their proximity to the right of way, especially if there were questions about who cut them and why they were cut. Mr. Gaucher said he would have the stumps removed.

Mr. Pyne said he has noticed a tree on School Street that was cut/trimmed several years ago, probably by NSTAR, and the trunk was left standing almost up to the wires. He questioned if in a case such as that if the entire tree should be cut instead of trimming it to just below the wires and leaving it. Mr. Gaucher said he agreed that in those cases the entire tree should be removed. Mr. Gaucher said he would contact NSTAR and inquire as to the reason the tree was left in that condition.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the tree warden has resigned and a new person has not been appointed yet. He said there was one person interested in the position but he has withdrawn his name. The position has been advertised with no responses. The board suggested that the personnel committee should be asked to rate the position and consider increasing the salary. Mr. Gaucher said he will follow up on the suggestion.

#### EARTH TECH UPDATE

Mr. Jubinville briefly reviewed the Ashland water treatment plant costs, the H-2 well development and the Water Management Act compliance. Mr. Carty explained at a recent meeting with Ashland it was clarified that Hopkinton's costs for the treatment plant were to be based on a rolling average for an entire year to eliminate the peaks and valleys of monthly usage. Mr. Jubinville said Ashland is questioning the final bill from Earth Tech for construction of the treatment plant and asked Mr. Carty for a copy of the Ashland information to make sure Hopkinton was not being over charged for any of our obligation.

Mr. Jubinville presented the board with a copy of the contract for the design on well H-2. He asked the board to review the contract and forward it to the Board of Selectmen for signing.

Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the H-2 well contract with Earth Tech should be signed, pending a review of Earth Tech's backup documents by Mr. Gaucher. The motion was seconded by Mr. McIntyre and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Gaucher and Mr. Jubinville scheduled a meeting for this afternoon to review the details of the contract.

Mr. Jubinville said the reply letter to DEP regarding the Water Management Act compliance would be ready for the town to send by the end of the month.

#### INFLOW/INFILTRATION STUDY

Mr. Carty advised the board that the inflow/infiltration study has found about 25,000 gallons a day of inflow during peak conditions. He said a few sump pumps were found along with leaking manhole side walls. He said the next phase of testing is being reviewed to determine what methods will provide the town the most for our money.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the August 2, 2005 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Pyne and seconded by Mr. Sonnett. The vote was Pyne – yes; Sonnett – yes. Mr. McIntyre was not present at that meeting so abstained from the vote.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for September 13, 2005 at 7:30 AM in Room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss