

Town of Provincetown

Meeting of the WATER & SEWER BOARD

Wednesday, January 14, 2009
Grace Gouveia Building, 26 Alden Street, Provincetown

Members present: Jonathan Sinaiko (chair), Mark Collins, Kathleen Meads, Sacha Richter, Moe Van Dereck

Members absent: none

Other attendees: Selectmen Mary Jo Avellar and Austin Knight, Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Barbara Rushmore, Rick Murray, Astrid Berg, DPW Staff David Guertin and Dana Faris.

Call to Order

Mr. Sinaiko called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Deferrals

Ms. Faris presented the following applications for deferral of water/sewer user charges and explained that the applicant met all the requirements for deferral.

	Address	Service	Amount Deferred
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Acct#			
106	5 Alden St.	Water	\$50.00
106	5 Alden St.	Sewer	\$222.00

Mr. Sinaiko moved, seconded by Mr. Van Dereck to grant the deferrals. The motion carried 5-0.

Request for Extension to Comply with Section 6.D.3 of the Sewer Rules and Regulations

Ms. Astrid Berg, representing the Berg Family Trust, owner of 371-373 Commercial Street—a so-called “red property” that has been permitted to delay connection to the municipal sewer—stated that she is undertaking some fairly substantial renovations to her property, a good proportion of which are related to bringing her property into compliance with Chapter 91. While Ms. Berg acknowledged that she was not contesting the building commissioner’s determination that the scope of the renovations triggered the requirement under Section 6.D.3 of the Sewer Rules and Regulations that the property connect to the municipal sewer, she was asking the Board to allow her to delay said connection until April 30, 2010 instead of October 31, 2009, as originally proposed. The Board was amenable to the April 30, 2010 date based on the following: (1) Owing to the restaurant’s being closed, there will be little or no flow between October 2009 and April 2010, (2) Ms. Berg is still in discussions with the Town regarding scope of work to be done on the adjacent walkway, and (3) the stub to connect the property is already in the ground. Mr. Van Dereck then moved, seconded by Mr. Sinaiko, (1) that the property known as 371-373 Commercial St. (Assessors’ map 12-2-020) be allowed to proceed with the proposed renovations upon receipt of the sum of \$1,000 to be held in escrow by the Town of Provincetown, such sum to bear interest and to be applied toward the eventual cost of the property’s sewer connection, and (2) that the property shall connect to the municipal sewer no later than April 30, 2010, regardless of whether the proposed Chapter 91 work has been completed by said date; provided, however, that at any time prior to April 30, 2010, should the Health Agent determine that the property’s onsite septic system is in failure, the property shall connect to the sewer immediately. The motion carried 5-0.

Update on Sewer Optimization

Mr. Guertin presented an overview of plans to satisfy demand on the crowded east main by redirecting flow from properties at the extreme end of the vacuum system into a new main that would run down Bradford Street. Staff will be sending out letters to properties in the proposed service area to confirm which properties wish to connect. It is anticipated that staff will bring a

\$2.5-\$3 million borrowing authorization to the spring town meeting and that, following completion of design and permitting, construction would commence in the autumn of 2009. Ms. Rushmore advocated sizing the sewer main so that Beach Point, including that portion that lies within the Town of Truro, could be served at some point. The Board thanked Ms. Rushmore for her concern and vision. Ms. Meads expressed concern, notwithstanding the various extensions to the sewer, that the system have sufficient capacity to be able to serve all waterfront properties in Provincetown that are not already connected.

Public Statements

Dr. Murray reminded the Board that, despite the recently enacted rate decrease, the sewer users were still paying exorbitant rates because the red dot properties were being allowed to continue to delay their connection. He also expressed concern that the terms of the extension granted to 371-373 Commercial St. had set a dangerous precedent and that other red dot properties might well expect equally favorable terms.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Van Dereck moved, seconded by Ms. Meads, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2008 as printed. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Sinaiko moved, seconded by Mr. Richter, to adjourn the meeting. The vote carried by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sacha Richter, Clerk