

Meeting Notes

Subject	Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade – Monthly Public Construction Meeting
Date	January 18, 2017
Time	11:00 AM
Location	Portsmouth, NH

A public meeting was held at 11:00 AM on January 18, 2017 at Portsmouth City Hall for the subject contract. A record of the discussion follows:

Don Song, Wastewater Project Manager for the City, gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the topics of discussion, including work completed in the last month, work anticipated in the next few months, events and recreation, and public input.

Following the introduction, the members of the Project Team in attendance introduced themselves, and included:

- Don Song, Wastewater Project Manager
- Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
- Terry Desmarais, City Engineer
- Jon Pearson, AECOM Project Manager
- Bob Dahlinghaus, AECOM Resident Representative
- Andy Brodeur, Methuen Project Manager

Don Song noted that to obtain additional information regarding the project, there is a project website that can be accessed through www.portsmouthwastewater.com. The website is updated weekly with news and recreational information and contains a link to a reporting form that can be used to provide feedback or notify the town of any issues associated with the project.

Jon Pearson showed progress photos and discussed work completed on the project in the last month, including:

- Concrete placement and 48" pipe installation at the Headworks Building.
- Work continued on the new water main that will run along Peirce Island Road to the facility. The water main will continue past the facility to provide water to New Castle.
- Connection of a temporary water main to the existing water main. The temporary water main will bypass the existing water main while the new pipe is being installed.
- Relocating the electrical service out of the existing Filter Building in order to demolish the building.
- Removing the existing generator from the existing Filter Building from service and installing a temporary generator.
- Installation of revetments (rip rap slope stabilization).
- Test pits at the location of Gravity Thickener No. 2.

Andy Brodeur discussed the scheduled work for the coming month, including:

- Connect phone and internet at the trailer complex.
- Continue underground piping installation near the new Headworks Building.
- Continue installation of reinforcing steel and concrete for the foundation and walls of the new Headworks Building.
- Drill and excavate rock for the new Sanitary Pump Station No. 2.
- Initiate installation of utilities near the new Sanitary Pump Station No. 2.
- Complete relocation of the polyethylene tank and pumps (for pH adjustment) to a temporary facility.
- Energize temporary electrical overhead distribution system.
- Transfer power to temporary electrical distribution system.
- Continue excavation and installation of the new 12" water main beginning near the pool.
- Continue excavation and installation of new underground power and communications duct bank, beginning near the pool.
- Continue installation of the revetments (rip rap slope stabilization) on the Shapleigh Island side of the site.
- Continue removal of approved trees.
- Begin demolition of the Filter Building on Shapleigh Island side of the site.
- Initiate excavation for Gravity Thickener No. 2.
- Initiate excavation and installation of underground piping near Gravity Thickener No. 2.

Andy Brodeur also described the scheduled activities for the next 3-6 months, including:

- Complete the installation of the new 12" water main.
- Complete the installation of the new 8" force main from New Castle.
- Complete the installation of the Sanitary Pump Station No. 2 and associated piping.
- Begin installation of yard drainage.
- Continue construction of the Headworks Building, including masonry, precast roof planks, roofing, and associated yard piping.
- Placing concrete for Gravity Thickener No. 2 and installing associated yard piping.
- Complete demolition of the existing Filter Building, including removal of underground chemical tank and fuel storage tank.
- Begin ledge removal for the BAF Building.
- Noted that the volume of truck traffic to and from the site will increase while demolition and excavation is ongoing.
- Begin construction of the BAF Building.
- Complete revetments.
- Continue installation of electrical distribution system, including the new Electrical Building.
- Relocate the locker room and lab facilities from the existing Administration Building.
- Begin demolition of the existing Administration Building.

Jon Pearson discussed events and recreation. The Project Team is continuing to coordinate with activities at Strawberry Banke and Prescott Park.

Terry Desmarais discussed two questions regarding the project that were sent to the City via email:

Q: Why were large rocks being delivered to the site?

A: The rocks were being brought to the site for the construction of the revetments (rip rap slope stabilization).

Q: Why was there additional earth being delivered to the site?

A: Earth was being delivered to the site for backfill for the installation of pipes and buildings. Backfill for the new pipes and buildings needs to meet certain requirements, as outlined in the Contract Documents. The earth being delivered to the site meets these requirements.

A public question and answer session then occurred, and is summarized below:

Francesca Marconi-Fernald asked the following:

Q: People have been accessing the site on nights and weekends.

A: This is something the City will need to evaluate further.

Mary Krempels asked the following:

Q: Why are CSOs not being addressed as part of this project? Why is a larger plant not being constructed to address the CSO issues?

A: The City is compliant with the EPA's requirements in regards to the CSO program. The CSO program looks at the pipelines in the collection system and how to reconfigure them in order to minimize the amount of discharge. So far, the CSO program has been effective with this approach and the number of CSOs has been significantly reduced. If the City were to construct a larger plant and send all of the flow to the plant, the plant would need to be larger than currently designed. A larger plant is not necessarily better because it is difficult to operate during low flows because the microbes associated with wastewater treatment cannot be kept alive. In addition to a larger treatment facility, the City would need to install larger pipes in the area of Strawberry Banke. The constriction in terms of conveyance of the wastewater is between South Mill Pond and the Mechanic Street Pump Station. All of the pipes would need to be increased in size and the pump station would have to be made significantly larger for what are becoming less frequent CSO events. The City does not believe that this approach would be an effective use of City funds.

Q: Where are the remaining CSO locations?

A: The remaining CSO locations are located at South Mill Pond and Deer Street. The Deer Street CSO has seen significant reductions in flow due to the City's sewer separation efforts.

The next public construction meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 at 11:00 AM at Portsmouth City Hall.