

Meeting Notes

Subject	Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade – Monthly Public Construction Meeting
Date	May 24, 2017
Time	11:00 AM
Location	Portsmouth, NH

A public meeting was held at 11:00 AM on May 24, 2017 at Portsmouth City Hall for the subject contract. A record of the discussion follows:

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

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

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

Don 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 City of any issues associated with the project.

Jon Pearson discussed work that has been completed this month. He noted areas where work is ongoing at the site, including:

- Headworks Building
- Yard Piping – both within the site and along the access road
- New Sanitary Pump Station
- Existing Filter Building
- Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Four Tree Island Parking Lot

Jon showed photos of construction progress, including:

- Headworks building – concrete masonry units have been installed, brick facing is beginning to be installed, roof planks have been installed

- Gravity Thickener No. 2 – the concrete walls are almost complete
- Existing Filter Building/New BAF Building – the Existing Filter Building has been completely demolished and the excavation for the New BAF Building is ongoing
- New Sanitary Pump Station – structures have been installed and backfilled, work is ongoing on the piping and electrical
- Utility Ductbank – has been constructed from its start point at the pool up through the entrance to the plant
- Four Tree Island Parking Lot – work on the parking lot began this month. The parking lot is being expanded in order to offset the loss of the pool parking lot. The stormwater collection and treatment for the parking lot will also be improved as part of this expansion.

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

- Continue underground piping installation near the new Headworks Building, including city water, plant drains, sanitary lines, odor control piping, and heat and refrigeration piping
- Complete the installation of the brick façade at the Headworks Building
- Complete the installation of the Headworks Building roofing
- Continue installation of rooftop mechanical equipment at the Headworks Building
- Resume work on the installation of the underground propane tanks and piping
- Continue installation of the odor control system for the Headworks Building
- Continue installation of interior electrical, plumbing, HVAC, control wiring, and mechanical equipment within the Headworks Building
- Complete installation of electrical and control wiring at Sanitary Pump Station No. 2, put Sanitary Pump Station No. 2 online, and demolish the existing filtrate pump station
- Begin excavation for new Electrical Building and generator foundation
- Begin concrete placements for the BAF Building, including formwork, rebar, and concrete
- Begin installation of yard piping at the BAF Building
- Continue installation of the underground ductbank down to the existing Sludge Processing Building
- Install walkway around Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Complete leak testing of Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Start the relocation of primary sludge pumps into Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Continue installation of yard piping around Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Begin selective demolition and structural modifications at the existing Grit Building
- Install Scum Pump Station manhole adjacent to the Grit Building
- Continue installation of stormwater infrastructure
- Continue installation of remaining plant yard piping
- Continue to prepare to relocate the plant personnel to temporary facilities at the pool parking lot
- Complete the expansion of the Four Tree Island Parking Lot
- Place binder course of pavement on the roadway from the pool to the Headworks Building

Andy then discussed the work anticipated for the next four to six months, including:

- Headworks Building – complete installation of underground yard piping, install windows and doors, complete installation of all rooftop mechanical equipment, complete installation of underground propane tanks and associated piping, complete installation of the new odor

control system, and complete installation of all interior electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and mechanical equipment

- BAF Building – continue concrete placements, continue installation of the yard and process piping, start installation of interior electrical, plumbing, HVAC
- Permanent Electrical System – complete installation of transformer, Electrical Building, and generator, install the new switchgear within the Electrical Building, swap the overhead power feeds to the new underground system
- Gravity Thickener No. 2 – complete temporary installation of the primary sludge pumps, install protective dome, complete yard piping
- Grit Building – complete selective demolition, continue installation of new process piping and equipment, complete structural modifications, complete roof system, continue installation of mechanical equipment within the building and the Scum Pump Station manhole
- Continue installation of stormwater infrastructure and the remaining yard piping

Jon discussed the expansion of the Four Tree Island Parking Lot and the Boat Ramp Overflow Parking Lot and showed depictions of what the parking lots will look like once completed.

Jon noted that the Project Team is continuing to coordinate construction with community events. Upcoming events include Market Square Day, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Race, and the March of Dimes Walk.

Terry noted that there have been several complaints about construction traffic going the wrong way on Court Street. The City has been following up on that issue and working with Methuen to identify those vehicles. If they are construction related vehicles, fines will be issued. Methuen is continuing to hold meetings regarding the construction route and is providing information to vehicles entering and exiting the site. The City has also installed traffic cameras in areas of concern and will be checking the camera footage this week regarding the complaints on Court Street. The City encourages people to notify them of any issues that they see, so that the City and respond and correct any issues.

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

Paige Trace asked the following:

Q: Has there been an archaeologist on site for the excavation of the Four Tree Island Parking Lot? Has the archaeologist visited the wastewater treatment facility since construction began? Has a report been made on their visits? Is a full-time archaeologist needed?

A: The project archaeologist completed a preconstruction investigation for the Four Tree Island Parking Lot. Based on the results of the investigations, the archaeologist was not required to be on site, nor did they think it was necessary to be on site, during the excavation of the Four Tree Island Parking Lot. An archaeological review has been completed since construction started at the WWTF. The report on their visit is still in draft format.

Q: The temporary access to Four Tree Island does not seem like it would be code compliant.

A: The City will take another look at the temporary Four Tree Island access to assess the hazards mentioned and determine if a better solution is feasible.

Q: Does the City have all of the appropriate Army Corps of Engineer permits required for work performed within 150' of the water's edge for the Four Tree Island Parking Lot?

A: An Army Corps of Engineers permit is not required in this case because the work is not within their jurisdiction. There is a requirement for an Alteration of Terrain Permit and a DES Wetlands Permit for the Four Tree Island Parking Lot, both of which were obtained and are available online on the project website.

Q: Could the City provide details on the fuel oil leak that occurred at the WWTF in February, resulting in loss of heat to the Administration Building? Was the EPA notified of this leak?

A: The issue that occurred in February was actually a break the line between the boiler and the fuel oil tank, not a leak in the fuel oil tank. The line between the boiler and the fuel oil tank was broken, resulting in air entering the line. Because air was entering the line, the boiler could not extract oil from the tank and that is why there was no heating in the Administration Building. Fuel was not leaking out of the line or out of the tank, no fuel spill occurred, and therefore EPA did not need to be notified.

Q: Could the City provide details regarding the brick layer licensing and payroll issues that occurred in January and February?

A: This project is being funded in part by the State Revolving Loan Fund, and as a result, DES visits the site once a month and conducts occasional surveys to make sure the Contractor is complying with Davis-Bacon wage rates program requirements. This issue was about making sure the correct labor category was used, the payroll paperwork was complete, and did not mean that there were unlicensed or unqualified workers on site.

Q: As noted in the presentation, Methuen is planning to begin the foundation for the BAF building. However, people are still reporting blasting in the area. Are there conflicts with the foundation construction and the blasting?

A: Methuen will be preparing the BAF foundation. In order to do so, they will need to keep an access ramp. Once they have finished preparing the foundation, they will remove the access ramp and may need to do some additional rock removal in that area. There are no conflicts and the work is being coordinated.

Q: Have there been any change orders since the first change order? If so, what were they for and how much are they?

A: There has been a second change order for miscellaneous pipe work and the Four Tree Island Parking Lot work. The change order was approximately \$540,000.

Q: Can a second stop sign be installed at the corner of Marcy Street and Mechanic Street?

A: The City does have plans to modify the stop bar arrangement at that intersection.

The next public construction meeting will be on June 21, 2017 at 11:00 AM at Portsmouth City Hall. There is a public tour of the WWTF site tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2017. More details will be issued regarding the public tour in the near future.