



Water and Sewer Advisory Committee May 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes –

The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee held its regular monthly meeting at BCTV, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Attendees: Erica Douglas (Environmental Coordinator), Danielle Evansic (Chairperson-Resident), Becky Hebert (Planning Director), Richard Moore (Resident).

Absent: Scott Bourcier (Resident), Mike Sills (Resident), Phil Greazzo (Town Councilor-Alternate) Michael Strand (Town Council Liaison).

1. **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31am by Chairperson, Danielle Evansic and began with roll call then went into the approval of minutes from the February 12, 2026, meeting.

2. **Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2026, Meeting**

Ms. Evansic asked if we had enough people present to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2026, meeting. Ms. Douglas responded by saying “I don’t think we do.” Ms. Evansic then said, “We have the minutes, we just don’t have enough people to approve them so we will table that until the next meeting to approve those.” She then continued saying, “the next item on the agenda is the flow metering update, but I’d actually like to bump that so we could discuss the Greenfield Parkway, so we can respect our guest’s, that you brought in, time, so can we jump to the Greenfield Parkway discussion?”

3. **Greenfield Parkway Sewer Defect Discussion**

Ms. Douglas began, “Yes, let me just start by saying, Greenfield Parkway is a low pressure sewer system, it was put in in the 90’s, we’ve been going and finding defects, a lot of defects over the years. Archie has been out onsite, doing a lot of work out there, and has uncovered even more. So, we have Brian Desfosses, our Director of Public Works, and Archie Jackson, our Roads Coordinator, here to speak on that.” Ms. Evansic commented about getting used to the idea of the 90’s now being considered vintage but acknowledged that something that was put in the 90’s is 30 years old now. As Mr. Desfosses and Mr. Jackson approached the microphones, Ms. Evansic asked, “And low pressure means this is a gravity system, right?”

Mr. Jackson responded by saying, "No, it's actually pumped. I will try to explain it the best I can." Archie then introduced himself and stated his title as well explaining, "I work directly under Brian and oversee our roads program every year. We've been working for the past few years in the Greenfield Parkway area but recently and in particular, we're working on the southern section of Liberty Hill Road, or going to be, from Meadow to the Merrimack line. We're also working on the other side of Liberty Hill Road in the Adam's and Bailey's Green neighborhood. As a part of that process, we do our best to recon utilities and things, so we don't have to tear the road up hopefully after we've redone it, that is the goal. We did a bunch of drainage work over there but, in the process, we had our vac truck crew from our sewer department come down to the Greenfield Parkway area and vac out a total of 6 sewer structures. Within those structures in that system, there are valves and clean outs typically, that's what we've been finding. This system is a pressurized system, in that every home actually has its own pump. It is considered low pressure, there is no singular pump station, however, every home acts as its own pump station. So, the drain manholes should not have any sewer in them, there are no inverts, they are basically a pipe through and through with a valve and a cleanout. The two that we found on Liberty Hill Road, and vacced out, one of them was in okay condition, the second one is the end of the line on that system and it's the most northern point in the system on Liberty Hill. That structure when we vacced it down, we found that the thrust blocks were made of kiln dried wood, not concrete or blocks and the end-cap was actually duct taped onto the pipe. They are all press on fittings; there are no mechanical joints to any of the valving or any of the pipes. Obviously as you can probably imagine, having a hard stop on any cap or end structure is very, very important. In addition to that, all the valves should also be supported in that same manner, and they are not. They basically have wood stacked on top and in some cases, they have nothing. The other side of the road, we found very similar condition as far as thrust blocks and things like that, however, there on Adam's Green in particular, there's what started to be what appears to be a loop system but it's not, it actually ends about 150 feet apart on either side on the back side of Adam's Green. We found one structure in the driveway, cleaned it out, it had a wheel valve on the bottom of it, and then a clean out but the cap was not actually installed in the cleanout, it was just a blue thread cover protecting the threads. So, we knew we had to make a repair there pretty instantly, we located another structure that had been buried, and that structure was actually full of sewage, which should not be happening in a pressurized system. So, we sucked that down, found that, the belief is that, that wheel valve is not functioning, it is not fully closed, and allowing sewage to weep by, and again the cap was missing in the cleanout. So, what this all leads to is a very important situation that needs to be addressed. And in addition to all that, the bolts on the valves are very, very rusty, they are not stainless steel, back when that was constructed that wasn't a common practice, however those need to be changed as well and there is a risk of the top of the valve actually coming off during that process. So, that's kind of what I've observed. As for a solution I will leave that to Becky and Brian, but just to make you aware, it is a pretty serious situation what we've been finding and observing in the manholes."

Mr. Defosses then added, "Our reason for being here today, is to inform the committee but also present the fact that there are some things that need to be done urgently,

short order, so that we can maintain the integrity of the system and have it serve for a number of future years, but at the same time, and Erica will speak to this, there needs to be a bit more of a longer term plan.” He continued, “Thank you for letting us update you, if you have any questions, we are happy to answer them.”

Ms. Evansic asked, “So was that a standard of construction, 30 years ago, to use wood in there instead or was this kind of like, meeting the bare minimum of requirements, kind of construction?”

Mr. Jackson answered, “meeting the bare minimum of requirements, at best. Any thrust block should be made of a solid surface and have significant weight. So when we do watermain they actually set 500lb blocks, and in a sewer construction like this, again, it should be some form of concrete block or brick that is wedged in between the end of the pipe and the structure and then under the valves, it needs to be a permanent structure, so something of brick or concrete block or something like that would be the standard, and probably should have been the standard back then.”

Mr. Defosses added, “At that time we did not have the robust inspection program that we currently do.” Mr. Jackson continued, “We had a lot of hired engineers, not town employees doing the inspections.”

Ms. Evansic asked, “So does this feed into the Manchester system or the Merrimack?”

Mr. Jackson replied, “This one goes to Merrimack, there’s a pump station at that side of Liberty Hill at the town line and that feeds to Merrimack.”

Ms. Evansic then asked, “and this was installed by the developer and inspected, or how did this come about?”

Mr. Jackson responded by saying, “It was definitely installed by the developer, as far as inspection,” Mr. Defosses then also answered by saying, “There were inspection reports, I have seen some of them, specifically regarding the sewer, I think the records are spotty at best, so we don’t have a really great history but I do know that there were inspectors on site, but as Archie indicated, they were not town inspectors, they were third party inspectors. I do believe that there were some negotiations back and forth during the road acceptance phase and the project acceptance phase, but ultimately the town did accept the road and did accept the sewer system, so it is absolutely currently our issue to contend with.”

Ms. Evansic responded by asking, “How many residents are on this system?”

Mr. Defosses said, “Quite a few,” Mr. Jackson also responded with, “Definitely quite a few, I don’t have an exact number, but I do believe it’s in excess of 300.”

Mike Tranque told the committee that it’s about 350 homes.

Ms. Evansic then directed her attention to Ms. Hebert and Ms. Douglas, stating those were all the questions she had on this topic.

Ms. Hebert then added, “I just wanted to say that this incident supports the inspection program that we have today and emphasizes the need for quality inspections by town employees or trusted third party inspectors that are managed by DPW. Do you need a recommendation from this committee to move forward with an emergency fix and then a long term evaluation or just a long term evaluation?”

Ms. Douglas responded by saying, “Theres a several things that we are looking at right now. Theres a few things, as Archie described that need immediate fixes in there that we will be looking to do. And then we’re looking at, the first phase would be this is obviously a lot bigger than something that we can handle so getting a consultant in

that does an entire inspection of the entire system and can make a recommendation on what would be short term fixes and then a recommendation on what a long term plan would be for this project and this sewer system. Obviously, there were a lot of issues in the original construction so there's not a lot of faith in what was put in the ground, we can only go in and inspect the manholes. I know that we have found Ferncos on this line so we're not confident in what's there. So, there's a couple of approaches, after talking with a couple different consultants, on how an investigation would take place is, they can investigate what can be seen. Because this is a low pressure system, Archie actually already spoken to some people on how we can inspect that, it is very, very difficult, seeing that all 350 homes are actually on their own pump stations, so trying to coordinate an inspection with all 350 homes and turning those off and not using the water and not using their sewer system, while we go in and camera all of that is very complicated. It's a 2 ½ inch pipe, so it would be very difficult to camera that and that is just going to show us the inside, it's not going to show us the type of fittings that were used. So, a long term approach, where our options kind of are, to come up with a game plan of future design and how we're going to replace it or it's a sit and wait and let it blow up, each individual time, and then repair it. We don't love that idea of sitting back and not doing something so this would also include looking at the cost of what a long term fix actually is for the system and then what we need to do for the short term to get there. We're looking at putting in a CIP project this year for the engineering consultant to do a full inspection of what's visible in the system."

Ms. Evansic then stated, "Yes, with a low pressure system, as you guys fix the one weeping valve, you're going to increase pressure at other valves and check valves, you'll end up chasing problems."

Mr. Jackson responded to Ms. Evansic stating, "Yes, it could. The visible fixes that Erica is referring to, it's each and every manhole in the system, addressing and evaluating all the valving, and repairing all the thrust block and support mechanism within the structures. That's the stuff they will be able to inspect and will be able to give us immediate repairs on. Like Erica said, the unknown is the pipe in the ground that we can't see. That'll be more of the long term fix, addressing the issue."

Ms. Hebert then asked, "Can this wait a year for the budgeting process and CIP?"

Mr. Jackson replied by saying, "The problem is, every time we pop a different cover, and suck it down with our vac truck, we are seeing things of an immediate nature need to be addressed. That end cap on that one structure that I said is held on by duct tape, that needs to be addressed, there needs to be a thrust block installed on that. We are aware of it so we really should get it addressed by a contractor who is capable of doing that, and while they are in there, they should secure the valve and replace the bolts on the top as well. I would say there are some critical things that need to be addressed in the near future, and then some of the other stuff could definitely wait a year without a doubt. Sorry, I wish I had better news."

Ms. Evansic joked, "So you're telling me that duct tape is not an appropriate solution?" The room laughed as did Mr. Jackson when he replied, "No ma'am it is not."

Ms. Evansic then asked, "So do we need to come across with here, what are we looking for?"

Ms. Douglas responded by saying, "I think we just wanted to inform you, then we are looking for your support in generating a CIP project."

Ms. Evansic then asked, "Is there an ability to get funding from state grants or anything along those lines to support this?"

Ms. Douglas replied by saying, "Yes, we will definitely look into that, we are always looking into what money is available, we'll see if there's any SRF funding."

Ms. Evansic asked resident Richard Moore if he had any questions on the topic.

Mr. Moore replied, "Yes, I was wondering a couple things, the pipes that you can't see, that are buried, what's the material, and did I hear that they are only 2 ½ inches?"

Mr. Jackson replied "Yes, Erica can speak more to the carrying capacity. In sewer systems, they are sized for flow and to make things move, so sizing is very important. This system, she'll speak to that because there's a couple different things going on. For the most part, what we have seen in the holes is PVC material, it's a plastic pipe and I believe most of it is SDR35, but we have seen some other pipe structures in there that are a different color and you can't really see what they are without investigating them. Most of our investigation at this point has been from on top of the ground because it is a confined space entry. So, the repairs that we just made over on Adam's Green, the contractor who's doing the work over there, actually had a pipe crew onsite that day so they had all the safety gear they needed to go down and make those repairs, we were lucky in that way that day. Again, you're going to need somebody who is a competent contractor to restrain the valves, has the safety equipment, and can go down in these structures. Our guys just don't have the experience. We are working on obtaining the equipment, but we aren't there yet either."

Mr. Moore then asked, "Is that size and material typical of what you people use for that?"

Ms. Douglas responded, "Yes, but it does really depend on the area. There was a study done on Greenfield Parkway that indicated that the system may be somewhat oversized in some areas, and that 2 inches would have been a little bit better, to help with some scouring, but it wasn't going to make a huge deal, in the long term of the pipe. But yeah, that is fairly standard for this type of development for sizing."

Mr. Moore then asked, "The material, is that known for longevity?"

Ms. Douglas responded by saying, "If everything had been installed correctly, we would expect this development to last a lot longer than it is. I know on some services they've seen pool fittings out there, that is absolutely not standard and not appropriate to be putting on there. Fernco fittings don't go on pressurized pipes. A lot of the things that Archie has seen out there is not appropriate, it's not standard, and it's not helpful to the long term health of this system and making it a system that would last 60, 70, 80 years."

After a pause, Ms. Evansic then asked if anyone had anything else to ask or add.

Mr. Defosses said, "I would just like to thank the committee again for their support and willingness to talk about these issues. I personally would like to thank both public members for volunteering to help us in this, it is important to us, again, thank you very much."

Ms. Evansic then thanked both Mr. Defosses and Mr. Jackson for spending the morning with us.

Ms. Evansic then addressed Ms. Douglas and asked, "Do you need us to vote on anything or just say, go forth-"

Ms. Douglas responded, "We don't need a vote, I'd say just go forth."

Ms. Evansic responded by saying, "Alright, well as soon as you are ready, we can move on to the flow metering update."

4. **Flow Metering Update**

Ms. Douglas began by saying, "So what I wanted to do is, we installed 17 flow meters in our sewer system this last February. We don't have the full set of data; we just have preliminary right now. Flow Assessment hasn't gone through and done the cleaning up of the data and correlating it to the rain gauges that we have out there, but like I said we have 17 flow meters throughout the system, we have a rain gage at the siphon station, and we have another rain gage at McKelvie Middle School. And so, I just wanted to give you a general idea of what we are seeing, mostly along the interceptor." She continued, "So if we look at site S12, so this is the graph with flow over time and here we have the next 12 weeks of data. It's not bad for our system, we are definitely seeing in-flow and infiltration, when we go back through, we'll correlate that to rain days and high river days to get a better understanding of what's happening right there. But we do see a general diurnal pattern of the morning peaks, the daytime peaks, all the way down to at nighttime. At nighttime we're seeing general averages going down to around 20,000 gallons at nighttime which is a general indicator of what our in-flow and infiltration would be. As we see those peaks, in the system again, we will correlate those to rain days, those will be indication of in-flow from a rain event. There is also some industry on that line so we have to go back through but those are really good indications that we do have, not a horrible amount of in-flow and infiltration but we do have some affecting our system. So, it's just something that we'll have to stay on top of. The other flow meters in the ground will help us narrow down where those areas are, and we'll be able to do very targeted and specific projects, anywhere from lining, sealing up manholes, those types of things."

Ms. Evansic then asked, "Site S12 is where?"

Ms. Douglas responded by saying, "Site S12 is, this guy on the map, right here, we have route 3 coming down, we have the Merrimack River on our right, right across from the wastewater treatment plant right here in Manchester, and our siphon station is just north of it. So that is on our southern interceptor line, we're grabbing everything pretty much but Hawthorne Drive in this meter. We do have another meter that is a little bit closer to our siphon station, but they've had to move it around a couple of time, they have to clean up the data before it's really helpful to see what's going on there."

Ms. Evansic then asked, "So it's a mix of residential and industry on that line?"

Ms. Douglas responded, "Yes."

Ms. Evansic then asked, "And the units in the graph, it says access units?"

Ms. Douglas replied, "Those are the preliminary flow in MGD." They then continued, "So the other meter is in our northern interceptor. We looked at a couple that are a little bit closer to the siphon station, but because of some of the bends in the line, we wouldn't have gotten some great data, so we worked with Flow Assessment, and we

settled on N6. And then again, you can see we have our diurnal pattern, high peaks in the daytime and lower flows in the evening. We do have probably around 60-200,000 gallons of infiltration in this line. We will have to obviously again correlate it to rain days and high water tables to be able to get a better understanding of what's happening. We do have a decent amount of meters on a lot of these legs coming off of our northern interceptor so we'll be able to help narrow down where a lot of that is coming from or determine if it really is coming from the interceptor being so deep and along the Merrimack River. So, I just wanted to give you guys a little snapshot of what we are seeing, we were able to get them in, we have a good 12 weeks of data right now. We were able to get some great wet weather, even though it has been a dry year, so I think we'll be able to get a lot out of having these flow meters in the ground and be able to start tackling so in-flow and infiltration in the system and all of that will directly affect our billing with Manchester as our flow rate drops down, so will our sewer bills."

Ms. Evansic then stated, "Just to give a recap on why this is important, when we look at this graph this is telling us how much water is flowing through these sections at any specific time of day. When we look at the lowest part, that means that at that day the minimum amount of flow was still there. So even at 2 in the morning when you think everybody should be sleeping, we still get, like you said, 200,000 gallons running through that system. And again, like you said it's right along the river, that could be infiltration from the water table, or it could be water coming in from manholes or other seepage/infiltration. And the reason that this is even more important is because Manchester is working to eliminate this on their side."

Ms. Douglas responded, "Correct, even more so, they have CSOs, so they have a combined system. We're very lucky we don't have that; we're not dealing with catch basins that are hooked up to our sewer. So, they are dealing with massive and massive amounts of flow heading to their wastewater treatment plant that then can't be handled by their wastewater treatment plant so then they have their overflows. I think they've spent almost \$500 million, and I think they plan on spending a lot more than that moving forward. So it is a massive amount of money they're spending, and also as they start separating those CSOs, our bills are proportional to what their flow is and to what their TSS and their BOD is, so as their flow rates drop down, if we don't start tackling these in-flow and infiltration problems, ours will just keep going up and so we'll start seeing higher bills. So, we are trying to be proactive, making sure that we are not paying for clean water coming in that should be staying in the water table or heading down to the river, especially as Manchester is tackling these projects."

Ms. Evansic then clarified, "We basically split the cost of cleaning the water so if they are pulling out stuff that doesn't need to be cleaned, our proportion of what goes through is rising, and so we are going to see that rise on our end. Which it is a good thing in the end, that they are processing the right water, but it doesn't help the bills at home." Ms. Douglas agreed, stating, "Exactly." Ms. Evansic then asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Moore responded, "Well I'm glad to hear that we don't have the CSOs because that was my first thought when you were saying that water was getting into the system, but this water shouldn't be getting in at all."

Ms. Douglas agreed, stating, "Correct, we have a bunch of different ways water could be accessing the system. It could be poor plumbing in a commercial building, that their roof drains are actually hooked up to the sewer and not to go out to the drainage, it could be a broken cap on a clean out for a house service, it could be infiltration coming into the line from root penetration, it could be manholes, one of the biggest issues in manholes is hydrogen sulfide, that come from, one of the main sources besides general wastewater composition is FOG, fats, oils and grease. We've had a lot of issues with those in the past, so that deteriorates the concrete in the manholes and that allows for water penetration. So if the manhole is still in decent shape, you can go in and line that and seal it up, there are some great programs that do that now, so you are still able to keep that manhole structure, you don't have to dig it up, you are not replacing it, you are just lining it and you're sealing all that water out. Manholes are one of the biggest causes of infiltration. It could also be just poor drainage around the site that's just draining down towards the sewer manhole, so there is a lot of different things that could be the cause of this. This right now is the first step in figuring out what our issues are, where our issues are, and then, if we need to do some more investigations, smoke testing and other types of things to really narrow down what those sources of I&I are. We actually just started doing our manhole inspections, so we've been finding a lot of issues with fats, oils, and grease, we've sent out a few letters already for non-compliance and we've had a really good response from those restaurants to get things fixed up. It's funny we found one manhole that had no brick structure no inverts or anything in it and it had probably been like that for 30 years. So, we are trying to do more investigative work to tackle these issues as we find them."

Ms. Evansic then asked Ms. Douglas, "And I think you said earlier that there is 17 of these flow meters?"

Ms. Douglas responded, "Yes, there's 17 plus the one we are keeping over at Alpine Court to help address those issues that we've been having over here and help indicate whenever it may be some, grease is getting stuck in the line."

Ms. Evansic stated, "So basically this is the first step, here's what you found, let's see if we can figure out where we've got big troublemakers."

Ms. Douglas agreed, stating, "Exactly. And last year I couldn't put in a flow meter right at the siphon station, we have that north interceptor coming down and the south interceptor coming up and it created a bit of a swirling pattern before it headed straight into the siphon which just wasn't great for a flow meter but we did put a level sensor in there and that has been really helpful to kind of see what's happening in that manhole. We have seen a little bit of surcharging. We also have seen some very weird increases in flow and then some drop off, so I'm hoping the rest of these flow meters, once we get the full data, we'll be able to figure out what's actually happening in the system and where that is coming from, because we are seeing anywhere from 30-31 inches and it's a 30 inch pipe, and then all of a sudden it would drop off around a holiday or something, to 25 inches, and you expect it to come right back up again but it wasn't. It would gradually start increasing over a month or two period and this keeps happening in the system. Having these in here is really giving us an understanding of what our system is doing, why it's doing that and there's a lot of questions that we'll be able to answer with this data."

Ms. Evansic then asked the group if there were any other questions on this topic.

Mr. Moore responded by asking, "These sites you gave us the plots for, how inclusive of our system is this?"

Ms. Douglas responded, "That's a great question. So that takes probably about 90% of all the flow that goes through to Manchester. So, it's just this main line off of Hawthorne that's not being captured, and a couple of these housing complexes. From the southern side and then on the northern side it's just this little section right here on a couple of manholes. It's capturing 90% so that's giving us a really good indication of what's happening with the entire system and then those other flow meters, like I said, will help us narrow it down."

Mr. Moore thanked Ms. Douglas for her response and Ms. Evansic asked Ms. Hebert if she had anything to add and she responded by saying no.

Ms. Evansic then asked, "is there anything else that we had in the agenda that we haven't talked about? We just had the flow metering and Greenfield Parkway?"

She then acknowledged Mr. Desfosses, and he responded by saying, "Thank you madam chair, I did want to update the committee on something that I had discussed at our last meeting, and it was in reference to the sewer sleeve that runs across Route 101. I was recently contacted by the property owners that are potentially looking to develop their property, and they did inquire about what the mechanism would be to move forward with that request. I basically indicated to that property owner that they should approach this committee and that they should probably look to have some sort of MOU develop with the town. So that would probably be this committee as a first step and then to the town council so that a memorandum of understanding could be generated. It would allow them to move forward with their development if in fact this committee and the town decide that's appropriate. And if it was considered to not be appropriate then it would at least let them know what their options are. And so again, I just want you to have that in the back of your minds, that will likely be a topic of discussion at our next meeting. Thank you."

Ms. Evansic thanked Mr. Desfosses.

5. Set the Next Meeting Date – August 6th, 2026

Ms. Evansic then proceeded, "Okay so the last item on our agenda is setting out next meeting date, August 13th or August 20th, what is the conflict with Poles and Wires?"

Ms. Douglas responded by saying, "So Poles and Wires starts at 9:15am?" asking Ms. Hebert.

Ms. Hebert stated, "It usually starts at 9am."

Ms. Douglas continued saying, "Oh at 9. When we moved our meeting last time, it obviously only gives us 30 minutes, so if we move to the first Thursday or third Thursday of the month there's no other conflicts. Then we can keep the time at 8:30, which was at the request of BCTV to help them out a little bit. Does anyone have any preference to the first or the third of the month, our next meeting normally would be August 13th, but I think it would be August 6th, or the 20th would be our other two options."

Ms. Evansic responded by saying, "I am not a fan of the 20th, I would rather do the 6th personally."

Ms. Douglas then said, "We will start moving the meetings to the first Thursday of the month if everybody is okay with that."

Everyone agreed. Ms. Evansic concluded the meeting by saying, "That is our agenda, so can I get a motion to adjourn?"

Mr. Moore said, "So moved."

Ms. Hebert responded by seconding the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09am.