

**From:** Lorraine Iovanni <l.iovanni@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:04 AM

**To:** Gail Hunter <HunterG@manchester.ma.us>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] - Fwd: Re: GDT News Article: Steve Gang reports on MBTS Water Supply and Quality

Hello Gail

Please send to all TF members.

Enjoy the great weather!

Lorraine

----- Original Message -----

From: Lorraine Iovanni <[l.iovanni@comcast.net](mailto:l.iovanni@comcast.net)>

To: Steve Gang <[steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com](mailto:steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com)>,

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Cc: Marc Resnick <[ResnickM@manchester.ma.us](mailto:ResnickM@manchester.ma.us)>, "[federspielg@manchester.ma.us](mailto:federspielg@manchester.ma.us)"

<[federspielg@manchester.ma.us](mailto:federspielg@manchester.ma.us)>

Date: 10/20/2024 9:23 AM EDT

Subject: Re: GDT News Article: Steve Gang reports on MBTS Water Supply and Quality

Good morning, Steve,

Thank you for the response and interest in a dialogue.

I myself made the "leap," because our water quality, quantity, and the watershed should be the top priority in MBTS, not the interests of the State. I concur fully with your statement in the article regardless of the scope. There is no intention to put you on the spot.

I have no problem with the Task Force proposal to Zone 3A in this area based on their rationale. The nexus is our watershed, the elephant in the room. I worked with the IRW, Gordon College, and the Town Administrator

in the early 2000's in Beverly when a development was proposed off Grapevine RD in Wenham. I am passionate about keeping our water safe, especially under the current conditions.

My point here is not with your view or assessment, as the ConCom has done an outstanding job based on science and expertise, but rather with the need for our Town Governance to address with our Town Counsel (finally) and to inform EOHLIC. Note the EOHLIC Pre-adoption Recommendations in Wellesley, MA, par #5, as below:

**"5. Some parcels in the Wellesley Square subdistrict appear to be subject to the Water Supply Protection district as well. Since the Water Supply Protection district requires a special permit, the compliance model must be adjusted to account for the limitation. Alternatively, the District could be exempted from the special permit requirement, with the substantive criteria retained. "**

<https://media.theswellesleyreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/24120218/Wellesley-Pre-adoption-feedback-3-20-24-1.pdf>

My concerns are directed to Town Governance, not the ConCom as a legal question as "site plan review" is administrative. I believe that the dialogue needs to occur between the ConCom and the Town SB/PB to cover all aspects of a developer's right to build "as of right," and at the same time protect the watershed. Clearly, this is no different than CST submitting the necessary special permitting.

I have also requested that the Town postpone the STM Vote on November 18, as some communities have chosen, until the dust settles in the Court in the Milton case on enforceability of Ch40A, sec3A and the Guidelines.

Otherwise, the question remains: if our watershed is in the proposed 3A Zone of Beaver Dam, how do we protect it?

Many thanks to you and the experts on the ConCom. I do expect the recommendations to be followed.

Sincerely,

Lorraine

Lorraine Iovanni  
20 A Pine St

On 10/20/2024 7:34 AM EDT Steve Gang <[steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com](mailto:steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com)> wrote:

Hi Lorraine and thanks for noticing my unexpected coverage in GDT.

You've connected my comments about Manchester's drinking water quality to the consideration of a 3A Overlay District on Beaver Dam Road. That's a leap I didn't intend **to make and don't fully agree with**. Protecting our watersheds is critical and complicated, and I'd be happy to talk to you about the various issues and locations requiring attention and priority.

Best,

~steve

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**Steve Gang, Chair**

**Manchester Conservation Commission**

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**From:** Lorraine Iovanni <[l.iovanni@comcast.net](mailto:l.iovanni@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 2:11 PM

**To:** [harrisona@manchester.ma.us](mailto:harrisona@manchester.ma.us) <[harrisona@manchester.ma.us](mailto:harrisona@manchester.ma.us)>; [roundj@manchester.ma.us](mailto:roundj@manchester.ma.us) <[roundj@manchester.ma.us](mailto:roundj@manchester.ma.us)>; [bilottac@manchester.ma.us](mailto:bilottac@manchester.ma.us) <[bilottac@manchester.ma.us](mailto:bilottac@manchester.ma.us)>; [delaneyj@manchester.ma.us](mailto:delaneyj@manchester.ma.us) <[delaneyj@manchester.ma.us](mailto:delaneyj@manchester.ma.us)>; [sollosyb@manchester.ma.us](mailto:sollosyb@manchester.ma.us) <[sollosyb@manchester.ma.us](mailto:sollosyb@manchester.ma.us)>; [creightons@manchester.ma.us](mailto:creightons@manchester.ma.us) <[creightons@manchester.ma.us](mailto:creightons@manchester.ma.us)>; [tennyl@manchester.ma.us](mailto:tennyl@manchester.ma.us) <[tennyl@manchester.ma.us](mailto:tennyl@manchester.ma.us)>; [foley@manchester.ma.us](mailto:foley@manchester.ma.us) <[foley@manchester.ma.us](mailto:foley@manchester.ma.us)>; Peter Morton <[mortonp@manchester.ma.us](mailto:mortonp@manchester.ma.us)>; [olneyc@manchester.ma.us](mailto:olneyc@manchester.ma.us) <[olneyc@manchester.ma.us](mailto:olneyc@manchester.ma.us)>; [Philbricks@manchester.ma.us](mailto:Philbricks@manchester.ma.us) <[Philbricks@manchester.ma.us](mailto:Philbricks@manchester.ma.us)>; Gordon Brewster <[brewsterg@manchester.ma.us](mailto:brewsterg@manchester.ma.us)>

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Steve Gang <[steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com](mailto:steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com)>

**Subject:** GDT News Article: Steve Gang reports on MBTS Water Supply and Quality

Hello SB and PB:

I am sharing the article below with both Boards, which I discussed briefly with Cathy Bilotta today in a casual conversation. It appears from what Mr. Gang, Chair ConCom, has stated that he is of the opinion that our water quality in Manchester is not receiving a priority. Now, this causes me great concern. I know that our PB/Dir Land Development are attempting to clarify special permitting for the proposed Beaver Dam 3A Zoning Overlay (as of right) to protect the Watershed and has not done so as yet with a Town Counsel advisory. Site Plan Review does not carry the weight necessary for the Town to legally protect the Water Supply/Watershed from Developers for legal challenge. We need this clarified. I am also concerned that we are operating in SILOs and that communication among various working groups is not effective in accordance with the Town Governance Project.

Regards,

Lorraine

Lorraine Iovanni  
20 A Pine St

# Rockport, Manchester officials share advice on water use

ROCKPORT – There’s nothing like leaning on a neighbor.

That is essentially what has taken place as the Rockport Ad-Hoc Water Committee sought and offered advice about water use with Steve Gang,

chairperson of Manchester-by-the-Sea's Conservation Commission and Open Space & Recreation Committee.

"The reason I'm here is because we're struggling in Manchester to figure out how to keep any amount of attention focused on the question of drinking water – quantity and quality," said Gang, who recently served on Manchester's Water Resources Protection Task Force. "I've been head of the (Conservation Commission) for a decade and a few years ago, collectively, we realized that we were basically just a reactive organization."

Gang said the commission has been, in part, taken up the administration of consideration of residents planning on "building swimming pools on the coastal bank" or tennis courts on property deemed to be wetlands.

"It was time to do something more intentional," Gang said. "So we chose drinking water."

For 18 months, Gang said oversaw residents on the task force that included engineers, attorneys and biologists who "surprised me with their energy and talents."

"We studied every aspect we could think of (about) Manchester's drinking water," he said. A lengthy report was eventually produced that included a number of recommendations – "none of which have been enacted."

Gang said the Task Force was "retired" last year but before that it considered possible contamination of the town's drinking water supply.

"I'm looking for ways, potentially using Rockport as a model, to keep attention and focus on this question when it is not yet at the critical stage," he said.

Rockport Ad-Hoc Water Committee Secretary Jeanette Lucey McNally suggested one considered might be the introduction of storm water bylaws and regulations – something that Gang said Manchester does not have.

Gang said instead Manchester uses the regulations of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

“That’s one effort that could help control potential contamination of the water supply,” McNally said. “I don’t think we can overstate the importance of protecting the water supply, not just for our health but other creatures. It makes sense that we’re proactive.”

## Problems with PFAS

Gang said Manchester town officials are contending with the “remediation of a fairly high level of PFAS” in the water supply,

PFAS substances are synthetic chemicals that are essentially resistant to water, grease and heat. They are known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily and are persistent in the environment.

But Gang said PFAS have been found in the town’s Lincoln Street well.

“It was a concern from the get-go,” Gang said . “The more we learn, the more concerning it was.”

“The other issue we’ve been addressing, and I’m not sure it’s a concern in Rockport, is we use an exorbitant amount of water to irrigate our lawns,” said Gang. “If we were conserving some of that irrigation water, we’d have a great

deal more flexibility in, for example, dealing with the remediation of PFAS in one of our water sources.”

Manchester is among the top 10 communities in the state in terms of per capita consumption for such water use during the summer, he said.

Manchester draws about two-thirds of its water from Gravelly Pond in Hamilton and the rest from the “highly-productive” Lincoln Street well in town, Gang said

Gang estimated eight of town’s water customers use more than 1 million gallons of water annually.

“That’s north of a million gallons per year per property,” Gang said.

In Rockport, the town’s primary water sources are the Cape Pond and Carlson’s Quarry reservoirs.

McNally said committee members are trying to inform the public about the scarcity of available water in Rockport, “letting people know where our water supply is at.” She pointed to the town’s multi-tiered water billing system that charges consumers who use much water at a higher rate.

“I think educating the public is a big important part of it,” McNally said.