

Village Wastewater Committee Meeting Minutes
Wolcott Town Office and Zoom
Tuesday November 7, 2023
5:00 PM

In Person: Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bruce Wheeler, Maria Stadt Mueller, Bradley Horstman, Bernard Earl, Peter Lazorchak, Seth Jensen, Tori Hellwig
On Zoom: Maxfield English, Tricia Follert, Roger LaChance, Emily Hackett

1. Welcome & Introductions (5:06)

No changes to the agenda. No changes to minutes. Linda motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Bruce seconded. All in favor.

2. Update – School Board Discussions and November 15 meeting

There were many concerns expressed by the School Board at their November 15 meeting. Questions included whether construction would occur during the school year, why the school was selected as a dispersal site, whether the school fields would have an odor, and others. Birchline Planning, LLC made a slideshow presentation addressing all questions and concerns submitted by the School Board, to be shared at the School Board meeting next Wednesday at 7PM. Stone Environmental, Birchline Planning, LCPC, DEC, Oakson (for dispersal), Jim, and Bruce will attend.

3. Update – Funding

LCPC is helping draft an application for \$800,000 from the ACCD Community Revitalization and Recovery Program (CRRP), due no later than November 15. Five letters of support have been submitted from LEDC, the Wolcott Schoolhouse Committee, the Planning Commission, Bruce, the Nazarene Church, and the Selectboard. Tricia will reach out to MSI, and Maxfield will reach out to Pete's Greens.

4. Discussion – Timeline ahead of bond vote

August 2024 is the ultimate deadline for the bond vote. November is too late, earlier dates would allow for greater flexibility for DEC. Folks discussed June as an optimal time, to connect with folks before school is out for the summer. The Committee can “back plan” from June to come up with a plan for public outreach up to a bond vote. Stone Environmental is continuing preliminary desktop investigations and will continue to refine cost estimates before bringing a request to the voters. Timelines through construction will be revisited. Also – priority project list is due January 15. Reviews will be in February.

Draft bond vote language was also presented to the room. Contingency language was considered. The group will have a better understanding once grants have been awarded/additional funding has been secured.

5. Ordinance Development

The committee continued to discuss a mandatory versus voluntary ordinance. There is “opt out” language worth exploring further. An “executive summary” of what an ordinance could contain was considered, including elements like differentiating between residential and commercial uses, how long folks might be able to connect without a fee. An ordinance will need to be drafted in advance of a special bond vote in June.

6. Next Steps

- **To-do list/benchmarks**
 - LCPC will schedule an initial outreach meeting to start making a plan for timeline/strategy.
 - The Committee will consider dates/deadlines to make decisions about elements of the draft ordinance.
 - School Board presentation November 15.

7. Meeting Adjourned (6:30)

Bruce motioned to adjourn, Allen seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting date: December 5, 2023 at 5:00PM