Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

Wolcott Town Office and Zoom

April 2, 2024

In Person: Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bruce Wheeler, Seth Jensen, Victoria Hellwig, Forest Anderson, Bradley Horstman

On Zoom: Tricia Follert, Peter Lazorchak, Amy Macrellis, Emily Hackett, Achouak Arfaoui

1. **Introduction; Review and Approve last Committee meeting minutes**
   Reviewed previous March meeting summary. Linda motioned to approve, Bruce second. Motion passes.

2. **Outreach Discussion**

   The News and Citizen article about the project was released. There were some nice quotes from the community in there. LCPC can follow up with the News and Citizen for a second story if needed. Could organize a detailed site walk. Front Porch Forum posts will continue once/week. Dan Noyes is going to de a wastewater project update, Tricia will send him the project flyers that are on the website. WDEV discussed the project on the radio. WLVB also does short, about 20-minute segments. A segment could be organized in advance of a potential second roundtable event, mid-May. Invite the public to more meetings in outreach messages. The committee discussed whether to have a second Roundtable or to combine with the informational meeting in early June. Absentee ballots that are requested will need to be sent by May 22, so another roundtable could happen prior to that mailing. May 21 was identified as a potential date, or June 7. Bradley recommended sending out reminders to request absentee ballots.

3. **School Vote & Bond Vote Process**
   The School Vote regarding siting of the dispersal system at the elementary school athletic fields is scheduled for June 4. This is the same night that was going to serve as the informational meeting for the Town vote. School graduation is June 12th, so holding the vote and informational session before this will be important to coordinate. Linda will reach out the two meetings to be held at the School with the School Board chair.

The Selectboard will need to decide on the bond vote language no later than 5/1. The bond vote amount will need to be included. Additional funding is anticipated to come in after the bond vote needs to be held (additional State ARPA funding, Northern Borders grant if awarded, Congressional Spending request being made). An updated cost estimate with a 30% contingency is expected at the next committee meeting on 4/16. 30% contingency is recommended by DEC. The committee discussed what the best bond vote amount will be, whether it's the full gap in cost or a lesser amount. Outreach will need to incorporate the existing funding stack and efforts made to date to secure as much funding as possible for the project. The committee will continue discission at the next meeting in April.

4. **Design Flow & Design Capacity Presentation**
   The discussion of tax impacts and distribution of costs was postponed to a further meeting since J.B. could not join the meeting. Questions have come in about the system capacity, so the Committee reviewed capacity considerations. Stone Environmental reviewed the differences between "design capacity" and "design flow" with the Committee. Design capacity involves the disposal field, and the gallons per day that can be loaded and discharged within 24 hours. Soil conditions and the size of the field area affect this. Design flow involves the users and gallons per day needed to support specific property uses. Property owners should consider what the desired change in use might be with a new community system, and what flow is needed for that use. All systems are currently limited to 140 gpd and would increase to 245 gpd with the community system. The permit for the system also required monitoring, which over time may demonstrate that there is excess capacity.

5. **Additional Support for Ordinance and Rate Discussion**
   Forest presented the Committee with the opportunity to work with another consultant to develop the ordinance. At this point, the ordinance policies are in place and additional support is not necessary. The Committee may revisit this once the project is farther along. Forest will also share some comparative rate tools offered through the University of North Carolina that will allow folks to compare different statewide user data for system rates, uses, costs, etc. The Committee could compare this project what other places are doing.