# Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

## Wolcott Town Office and Zoom

## May 21, 2024

**In Person:** Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bruce Wheeler, Seth Jensen, Victoria Hellwig, Peter Lazorchak, Amy Macrellis, Bradley Horstman, Scott Spencer

**On Zoom:** Tricia Follert, Emily Hackett, Achouak Arfaoui

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

2. **Continued Discussion on the Distribution of Costs and Project Funding**
   Scenarios were summarized and reviewed, with consideration based on future funding to come. A summary was given for potential user fees for properties that connect in the Service Area, and townwide tax impacts. Stone Environmental will help refine the summary to make it as concise as possible for folks in advance of the June 4 informational session.

   There is a strong likelihood for additional funding to come that will help keep costs as low as possible. The Town submitted a full NBRC application but won't receive any notice of award until late June. A $1.4 million request for additional State ARPA funding was made this winter, and a $1.4 million Congressionally-Directed Spending request was also made this spring. A town bond may not be needed if additional grants and funding come in. The funding that has been secured already can't be used in any other way, and will cover the cost of properties to hook up. The design of the system will help mitigate future flood damages and mitigate impacts to private landowners and taxpayer investments. Septic tanks at properties that hook up will also be designed to be as flood resilient as possible. There will be a town reserve fund that can be used for some system repairs.

3. **Preparation for Public Informational Session on June 4 at 5PM**
   On June 4, the Informational Session will be at 5:00pm, as required by statute in advance of the town bond vote. The Presentation from the March 12 Roundtable

event was used as a starting point. The Committee reviewed the presentation and provided edits to help keep the presentation timely and cover all the required elements in advance of the town vote. After the public information session, the School Vote at 6:00pm will follow. The school vote is to approve the siting of the disposal system at the elementary school athletic fields.

Committee members should continue to work on outreach efforts, most importantly direct one-on-one outreach with neighbors. Front Porch forum posts should focus on the June 4 vote, because people are confused about the two separate votes. The June 4 vote is for the siting of the disposal system at the elementary school athletic fields. The informational session is required for the town bond vote on June 11. Folks should be reminded of the option to vote for the town bond by absentee ballot.

4. **Next Steps planning**
   The Committee discussed the meeting schedule moving forward once the voting dates have passed.