Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

Wolcott Town Office and Zoom

July 16, 2024

In Person: Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Victoria Hellwig, Bradley Horstman, Bruce Wheeler

On Zoom: Peter Lazorchak, Emily Hackett, Mike Thomas, Seth Jensen, J.B. Hinds

1. **Introduction; Review and Approve last Committee meeting minutes**
   Reviewed previous May meeting summary. Bruce motioned to approve, Allen second. Minutes approved.

2. **Welcome Bradley officially as Wastewater Committee Member**
   Bradley had been serving in an unofficial capacity, it is now official. Tricia has moved and is no longer on the Committee.

3. **Update from Stone Environmental**
   Stone dug test pits and soil testing last week. Met with IDR folks and water supply division. Did a site visit at the school to look at water supply and geology, to inform the hydrogeological study being performed by subconsultant. Will make a plan for moving forward with that study. Stone is also narrowing down the surveyor and developing a strategy for surveying the area. Still waiting on authorization to survey various properties.

4. **Review the draft Wastewater Ordinance**
   J.B. of Birchline Planning reviewed draft ordinance developed in March with the Committee. No major changes were discussed. There are some decision points that will need to be made by the Selectboard, including whether to establish a Board of Sewer Commissioners, whether they would be appointed, and term lengths. J.B. will send a bulleted list with decisions that still need to be made by the Selectboard. A schedule of rates and charges was also reviewed. Rate evaluations will be revisited at a future meeting, as they depend on the responses to Stone's surveys and how many responses they get of properties to hook up to the system.

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5. **Petition Update**
   A petition was submitted to reconsider the vote held on June 11. The Selectboard will set a date to revote at the Selectboard meeting tomorrow night. Belinda is confirming details with VLCT.

6. **Other updates – Hardwick Gazette Article and Northern Borders Grant denial**
   The Hardwick Gazette published a good article about the project. NBRC issued a denial letter for the funding requested through their 2024 Catalyst Grant program. However, NBRC recommended the project for funding through a partnership with the Economic Development Administration. Notifications should be issued by September. LCPC will confirm whether to wait for this funding notice or begin preparing another NBRC grant application.

7. **Next Meeting is August 20, 5pm.**
   The next meeting is scheduled for August 20. Mike Thomas also posed some questions about the project to the Committee, the engineers, and the project support team in the Zoom chat. Questions were about the opinion of probable cost for the project, the service area, and how the project relates to flooding and the floodplain. The detailed questions and responses will be transcribed from the Zoom meeting recording, posted to the website, and emailed directly to Mike.

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