Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

Wolcott Town Office or Zoom

February 18, 2025

In Person: Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Tori Hellwig, Seth Jensen

On Zoom: Bradley Horstman, Lynette Claudon, Amy Macrellis, Achouak Arfaoui, Amy Coolbeth, Keith Cochran

1. **Changes to the Agenda; Approve Last Meeting's Minutes**

   A request was made to add a "Capitol for a Day" visit to the agenda.

   Linda motioned to approve the January 7 meeting minutes. Allen seconded, approved. Linda motioned to approve the February 10 meeting minutes. Allen seconded, approved.

2. **Capitol for a Day**
   Lynette was asked by DEC to relay to the request of whether Wolcott would be interested in hosting a "capitol for a day" event. There is interest, Lynette can be available to discuss further at Selectboard meeting tomorrow if needed.

3. **Review Opt Out Criteria compromise**
   Amy presented the revised opt out criteria language, developed by project partners based on feedback from the Selectboard. The revised language will help protect public health and the environment. Other factors could be added but were not included to not overburden property owners and the opt out language. The revised criterion was read aloud. Lynette commented on the correct citation to the Rules and title to use for a professional engineer. Allen moved to approve the language as read aloud and revised, Linda seconded. All in favor. The language will be shared again at the February 19 Selectboard meeting.

4. **Review Connection Letter, easements, timeline**
   The connection letter was reviewed again. Amy will confirm that the revised opt out criterion is reflected in the letter to be mailed. The goal is to mail letters this week and have folks send back letters to connect to the system by March 7. Bradley suggested adding (1) and (2) to the choices to be made under "Action Needed by March 7." Document preparation costs bullet will be removed under "opting out" section. Contact information will be included for Jim and Linda for people to reach

out with any questions about the letter and next steps. Stone will be looped in for technical questions. A proposed timeline was reviewed for next steps. The goal is to mail letters by Thursday 2/20, hear back for folks opting in by 3/7. A Q&A meeting for folks opting in and next steps for easements will be held at the next WW meeting. Advertise this at Town Meeting and front porch forum. Easements should ideally be in place for the Final Design but no later than August 1.

5. **Funding Update – Animating Infrastructure grant**
   LCPC presented a creative grant opportunity for the project. The Animating Infrastructure grant through the Vermont Arts Council can be used to design and incorporate artwork into infrastructure projects like the wastewater system. For example, this funding source was used to create murals on the Jeffersonville Silos. Decorative manholes could be designed and created as a fun way to engage the community around the project, and invite folks in from the Rail Trail to see the unique infrastructure. Other places around the country do this like Austin and New Orleans, people go visit and take pictures. The art could be a contest for community members to enter concepts for design. The Committee was supportive of LCPC requesting approval from the Selectboard to put together a grant application by April 1.

6. **Engineering Update**
   The 30% design milestone was achieved. Stone received comments from DEC and they are being incorporated into the 60% designs. Environmental review elements are also ongoing. Large system user conversations are also ongoing for potential future uses.

7. **Public Outreach Preparation**
   Bradley provided an update on proposed changes to the website. It needs to be updated and reflect current questions and info people in town are asking about more clearly. Bradley will draft some edits for review before Town Meeting Day. A Front Porch Forum posting schedule was also discussed. Preparations were made for the Committee to table at Town Meeting Day. The 30% Designs, Service Area map, a flyer advertising for the 3/18 Q&A meeting, and copies of the confirmation form/sign up will be available for people to fill out that day.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 18