Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

Wolcott Town Office or Zoom

April 15, 2025

In Person: Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bradley Horstman, Tori Hellwig

On Zoom: Peter Lazorchak, Achouak Arfaoui

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

   Linda motioned to approve the March 18 meeting minutes. Bradley seconded, approved. Approved.

2. **Update from Stone – design, landowner mailing results, and permitting. Updated project timeline and next steps.**

   Jim provided Stone with an update of the outreach done with Bradley to continue getting folks signed up and connection letters. Contacted M. Tatro who owns several properties and would like to connect them all. Stone will reach out to discuss stubs at lots and capacity needs. Grimes also interested in connections, will need to determine whether stub or full connection at old farmhouse. P. Johnson indicated yes for both properties.

   Stone has been in conversation with MSI about connections, and changes from current use to meet future capacity needs. Also provided an update on number of properties that would like to opt out, some don't meet the proposed opt out criteria in the ordinance. The Committee will revisit after May 3.

   Other properties outside the current service area may be interested in connecting. The Committee wondered about the requirement for the service area being Village Center + ¼ mile boundary. Could ARPA or Northern Borders funding be used to extend main and connect properties <1,ooo feet from this boundary?

   Stone moving towards 60% designs, goal end of April or Early May for completion. Working on specs, surveying remaining lots, and securing drillers for ledge probing. A draft ARA report for archaeology is completed, appx. 4 areas were recommended for a Phase 1 ESA. Well testing has been completed for hydrogeological assessments, waiting on final results. Draft wetlands permit application ready soon. Act 250

amendment needed for permit at the school property. All permitting needs to be in place before the project goes out to bid.

3. **Conservation easements – legal review and distribution schedule**
   Will need to contact the School after the geological report for the well is available or shortly before. An update should be provided to the school at 60% design stage in May. Stone will coordinate to attend 5/21 School Board meeting to provide an update. School attorney may want to draft easement/agreement, Linda will start that conversation. If not the Town Attorney can likely support.

   All easements will also need to be in place before the project goes out to bid. Goal end of August. The Town attorney has a draft easement, Stone working on specific easement plans. There will need to be outreach soon to landowners for their review of the easements in batches, both temporary and permanent easements. Agreements will include permitting an annual inspection of tanks and pump.

   Committee would like to confirm requirements for connections and when payments start in ordinance. How long can you hold capacity before paying? Can you build out the tank, connection as system is built but not use any capacity?

4. **Wastewater ordinance public review – schedule update**
   No comments received yet. Becomes effective May 3. It will be a Selectboard discussion on how to handle the opt out provisions and who needs to connect to the system, the Wastewater Committee can provide a recommended process to the Selectboard. There should be a "legal letter" (certified mail, warning) sent outlining the opt out provisions, indicating the property owner does not meet and they will be required to pay to design, build, and connect after the system is constructed. The Committee will discuss further in May to make a recommendation to Selectboard.

5. **Grant funding update**
   Linda and Tori have been working on NBRC reporting, very time consuming. At this point there is no concern around this federal funding source from NBRC, continue business as usual. The Animating Infrastructure grant application for decorative manhole covers was submitted.

6. **Outreach Update**

Next Front Porch Forum posts could cover 60% designs. Possible heads up for ledge probes.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 20