Wolcott Wastewater Committee – August 5, 2025

Wolcott Town Office School St. 4:30pm

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

On Zoom: Peter Lazorchak, Lynnette Claudon

- **Approve last month's minutes (all)**

Linda motioned to approve the minutes from June, Bradley seconded. Passed.

- **Update from Stone- design and permitting. Updated project timeline and next steps. (Peter)**

Stone and DEC met about archaeological review with VDHP in July. The Archaeological Resource Assessment (ARA) drafted for the project needs to be updated to meet VDHP requirements. VTDEC provided the subconsultant that is drafting the ARA with an example to satisfy VDHP. VDHP will need to approve again once this is updated, and then next steps can be agreed on for the Phase 1 investigations. Currently 8 sites are proposed for additional testing in Phase 1, if more test pits are requested, Stone and the subconsultant have a plan to address this. Archaeology, rare threatened and endangered species, and wetlands are all a part of the permitting and environmental information document for the project. VTDEC and NBRC still need to review this document once submitted.

Updates for the hydrogeological investigations up at the school - Stone and the subconsultant are still collecting additional seismic data and are working to better understand the water test results collected. Trace amounts of artificial sweeteners still remain in samples, but additional subsurface investigations need to happen to determine the implications of this. Stone will be out with a drill rig in the coming months to continue data collection. More data is needed to make conclusions before going to the school board meeting.

- **Updates on Opt-Out landowner tallies and responses (Peter/All)**

The property next to the Methodist church was sold and the new landowner Mendez is no longer interested in connecting to the system. Peter and Alex will visit the landowner with Linda to discuss the current shared septic system with the church, better

understand site constraints, and share information about the new system and connecting for free during construction.

There are a total of 7 opt outs as of this meeting. Douglas household still unknown, Teale won't pick up mail, and Billings and Bowers are still Nos. The latter 3 do not meet the opt out criteria, also unlikely that Mendez will meet this. Jim and Bradley will contact Douglas household again.

Stone, LCPC and MSI met to discuss long range planning for the business moving into the MSI building on Route 15. 50 employees are anticipating to be employed there in 5-10 years. Trying to better understand what capacity is needed to accommodate this projection and what MSI is willing to pay for O&M costs.

Current deadline to sign up to connect to the system is mid-October.

- **Landowner easement- deed research, bank permissions, and landowner mailings (Linda)**

Easements have been mailed to all connecting households. Letters include an ad for the August 19 Committee meeting with time for Q&A and to have documents notarized. The Town attorney will attend and could notarize documents. Questions about this are being directed to the Town Attorney. Postings will be made on front porch forum at least twice leading up to this event. Additional outreach and follow up will be needed from the Committee if folks don't come to event and easements/forms are not being returned later this month.

- **School Board Meeting postponement and groundwater test results** (Peter)

An easement is still needed from the school, the September or October meeting will be attended to discuss this and the water testing.

- **Grant funding update-** (Tori and Linda)

The project was not awarded a FY26 CDS award from Senator Welch. The Arts Council manhole cover grant was also not awarded. A CDBG pre-application was submitted.

- **Outreach update**

Front Porch Forum postings will be made for the August 19 event. The Committee will also have a table to share info on the project at the BBQ.

Next Meeting: August 19