**Wolcott Wastewater Committee**

**January 13, 2026**

**Wolcott Town Office School St. 5:00**

**In Person:** Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bradley Horstman, Bruce Wheeler, Alex Huizinga, Peter Lazorchak

**On Zoom:** Lynnette Claudon, Chloe Hulsizer, Achouak Arfaoui, Tori Hellwig, Keith Cochran

- **Approve December meeting minutes**
  - Linda motioned to adopt minutes from December 16. Bradley seconded. Minutes approved.
- **Update from Stone – including 90% designs, permits, Project Bid Schedule, Review latest on village landowner ROWs and partial releases**
  - Big milestone completed that will be topic of public hearing. EID been through Water Investment Division, signed off on FONSI. Now within 30-day public comment period of this process. Public hearing tonight to discuss components of FONSI.
  - Wrapping up 90% design plans. Concurrently working on hydrogeological investigations report, to be included in submission of 90% plans and draft IDP permit to DEC. Bridge design also being rolled into 90% design plans. Mer with indirect discharge program and other project partners in VT DEC, discussed hydrogeology and findings to date. In final stages of pulling report together with expert assistance at DEC. Goal to submit to Achouak and DEC at end of January.
  - Wetlands permit was submitted to DEC, in queue for review. Amendment to school Act 250 permit drafted and ready for submission next week. Linda and Jim will be included on those submissions. VTrans 1111 permit drafted, will submit with Town signature. Local zoning permits may be required. Construction general permit is prepped. Considered "low risk" with VT Stormwater so should be easy approval.
  - Indirect discharge program submission and review will be critical path. Stone working closely with the state so that review process should be able to happen smoothly. Extensive, thorough permit application package and review time. Public comment period after review and approval by the State.

- Critical goal to get project out to bid and School portion of project under construction during school vacation period – mid-June. Construction and revegetation at school will need to happen as soon as possible.
- Easement with the School – will review at January Board meeting. Thorough drafting and review already completed between Town and School attorneys. Thorough protections for school included. David or someone from Stone could attend.
- Alex from Stone provided an update on outstanding landowner easements. Linda provided update as well, Williams signed and returned deed to town attorney. MSI will record deed and signed easement after Town records. Whitley still no response. In touch with Grimes before holidays but still no signed easement, Alex will follow up. Updated deeds sent to Tatro for two properties, Alex will follow up. Linda left Bordeau several messages, no response. Burgess & Fehr under development – still waiting for signature. Town attorney will support other follow up. Need all easements before permit can be issued. If no signature will be removed from permit.

- **Wastewater committee report for town meeting**
  - Add DEC as partner to introduction section.
  - 90% design listed as completed - Will be completed by March 3.
- **WW grant funding update**
  - Quarterly reporting for Town grants
  - Although CDBG-DR grant was not awarded, the Town's existing grant funding sources still fully cover the cost of constructing the system. Planned for 30% contingency.
  - $4,000,000 State DEC funds (ARPA) will pay for permit fees.
- **Next meeting Date**
  - February 17.
- **Other items**
  - Stone or David will plan to attend the School Board meeting to be available for any questions that come up regarding the school easement.
  - Linda will reach out to Elliot.
- **Public Hearing opened at 6:04pm**
  - Alex Huizenga and Peter Lazorchak presented on FONSI, Environmental Information Document, and Environmental Report.

- EID and public hearing required for projects funded through Vermont Revolving Loan Program. This is how the state complies with NEPA and federal funding requirements.
- Project includes service area in Wolcott Village Center + ¼ mile. Serving about 40 properties. System will have capacity to serve 30,000 gallons per day using treatment and dispersal technologies approved by VT DEC.
- Map of project service area shown along Route 15, School Street, through Town Forest and Elementary School fields. All properties will have STEP tank. Disposal field at school shown with zones for drip dispersal under fields.
- Benefits – meets modern wastewater treatment regulations, protects public health and environment, improves flood resilience, protects wells and drinking water by decommissioning older septic systems, and provides capacity for store, commercial properties, adaptive reuse. For example, provides flexibility for the historic schoolhouse building to be used for library, café, or other uses.
- Impacts and mitigation measures also outlined. Considered wetlands (will delineate and avoid where possible; follow permit stipulations once received), flood hazard areas (flood proofing tanks and electricals), wildlife habitat (may affect, not likely to adversely affect; will cut trees outside of nesting periods for bats), historic archaeological resources (no adverse affect determination from VDHP), prime agricultural soils (no mitigation recommended by agency of agriculture), and hazardous sites (Stone will develop Soil Management Plan for contaminated soils).
- Public comment period open until February 8.
- Next Steps – VT DEC takes any comments received and prepares responsiveness summary.
- Questions can be sent to the Town, consulting engineer, or directly to DEC to Lynnette or Chloe. A key contact person is included in FONSI document and additional instructions.

**Public Comments on Proposed Mitigation Period**

- None received during hearing.