

Moretown Wastewater Committee

February 23, 2023

Draft Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:30.

Meeting held by Zoom only.

Present: Clark Amadon, Deborah Carroll, Rae Washburn, David Westerman, Jay Pillord [sp?], Jack Byrne

Guests: Robert Clark of Otter Creek. Emily Hackett with the Vermont State Clean Water Revolving Fund.

There being no public present, there was no public comment.

Minutes from January 12th were approved.

Emily and Robert discussed the process for the Engineering Services Agreement that is still unsigned. It is in progress.

Discussion:

1. Village survey

- A village survey will be conducted.
- Survey should:
 - look to create transparency with respect to this process, and
 - help identify local concerns.
- Robert shared sample questions.
 - Committee members will narrow the questions to just those they wish to include and will share their thoughts with Clark who will compile the questions.
- Decision points also include to whom this survey will be sent:
 - all town or just those living within a radius of the village.
 - how surveys will be shared (FPF, hard copies)
- Recognizing that there is not enough time to finalize the survey in advance of Town Meeting, this will be mentioned at the Town Meeting, but not sent until after.

2. Direct outreach to landowners with respect to potential sites

- A letter has been prepared.
- The committee continued to discuss questions re siting of a system such as size and number of systems if not a single one.
- Assignments were given to committee members with respect to contacting landowners personally.

3. Moretown Commons

- Moretown Commons has contacted Otter Creek regarding a wastewater system. We'll reach out to Moretown Commons.
4. Title search
 - It has been recommended that we request a title search on the property near the school, as that is a possible site for wastewater treatment and ownership of the property is somewhat unclear.
 - Regarding the current system, a search involving permits may help us ascertain landownership.
 5. Acreage needed for site(s)
 - Per Robert, we need to begin by looking at about 4.5-acre sites for a 20K gallon system.
 - We'll look at larger sites first, and then look at smaller sites as/if necessary.
 6. Preparing Moretowners for this project
 - Jack will prepare a FPF post and an article for the Valley Reporter to help Moretowners understand why this project is being proposed.
 7. Communicating the cost/economics of this project to the public
 - Per Robert, we've got more work to do before we're ready to do this.
 - For future reference, decision points and questions to answer:
 - How do we communicate this?
 - What type of tax burden will the town have to bear?
 - What will it cost for people to tie into the system?
 - Per Robert, most wastewater systems in Vermont are user-based, and the ongoing costs of the system are incurred by people using the system through user fees.
 8. Town Meeting
 - Clark will do a brief presentation at Town Meeting regarding this project.
 - Robert will draft a statement, but Clark/the committee may narrow it down to bullet points.

Next meeting is on Thursday, March 9th at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00.