

Moretown Wastewater Committee Minutes

March 23, 2023

Meeting called to order at 4:30.

Meeting held via Zoom and in-person at The Moretown Town Office.

Committee members present: Clark Amadon, Rae Washburn, David Westerman, Jack Byrne and Jay Pilliod

Guests: Garrett Bergey and Travis Blodgett. Emily Hackett from the State Clean Water Revolving Fund (SCWRF).

Public comment: No public comments initially. Garrett Bergey came in later. He stated he was here to check on the progress of the committee and its work. He offered comments related to work on his property related to septic. Garrett also offered a comment that within his professional work he connects with the State Clean Water Revolving Fund Office and that projects do take time to work through that system.

Minutes from February 23 were tabled. Rae Washburn moved to accept the 2/24/23 minutes. David Westerman 2nd. The minutes from February 24, 2023 were approved.

Update from Emily Hackett :

The ARPA grant writing process is beginning to move along. A few challenges are being able to define details. It's important to know how many users of a wastewater system will be served as well as details on construction supplies, which are unclear at this time. The work with Otter Creek is also challenged by questions the SCWRF office needs answered for Part 1 of the engineering study. Otter Creek and the SCWRF office are working on these. Dave Westerman also asked Emily to review the sources of support for the engineering study and the ARAP Grant so the committee could help keep the processes straight in our minds.

The Committee does have some impatience with the progress on the funding. It would like more certainty of when the grant writing for the ARPA funds can start and to settle the questions re Part 1 of the engineering study.

Future public meeting:

The Committee discussed when to have a public meeting in the village. It was felt that waiting for data from the test pits should be available. The committee asked Ms. Hackett if that made sense and she concurred. As part of the engineering study a public meeting is necessary when 60% of that study is complete. Due to the waiting period for grounds to dry as well as to schedule the test pit work and then analyze that results an early summer public meeting appears in the offing.

The committee has not yet looked at replies from a survey sent around Town Meeting time. The committee is taking time to focus on getting replies from more village residents, possibly taking the survey door to door.

Siting of a wastewater system:

This is moving along. Upper Valley Services is willing to have pits dug on their property. Dave Westerman shared that they are looking forward to the findings and are happy to know that data won't cost them anything! The School District is also willing to have pits dug in the area near the school

wastewater system. The Town Selectboard will be asked for permission on April 4th. Two other possible sites are still being discussed with property owners.

The Committee is planning to work with the Town Road Crew and the Selectboard to get them scheduled to dig the test pits. It's also important to confirm the town can be reimbursed for this work.

Other business:

Jack Byrne agreed to write an update for the Town, which will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Garrett said he'd work on a "QR" code for the survey to embed in that update as well.

The committee also needs to help move along the work to expand the "Village Destination" for Moretown Village. This designation must re re-applied for and Moretown is up for re-application.

The Committee agreed to meet next on Thursday April 6th at 4:30 PM.

The committee adjourned at 6:05 pm.