

Moretown Wastewater Committee Minutes

May 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at roughly 4:30.

Present: Clark Amadon, David Westerman, Rae Washburn, Jay Pillard, Jack Bryne, Deborah Carroll

There was no public present and therefore no public comment.

Minutes of the prior meeting were agreed upon, but not voted.

Discussion was based upon this agenda item:

- Update on the engineering feasibility study, discuss wastewater system siting, surveys from Village residents and test pit schedule. Share updates from the State on the status of the grant and on ESA Part 1 funding.

Updates from Clark:

- This process has been challenging given that we were unable to move forward due to scheduling issues that were beyond the control of the various involved entities.
 - Recent conversations with Otter Creek and the state revolving fund: we're still waiting on Otter Creek completing the Step One Planning Services.
- There was, previously, some discussion regarding whether the town can go ahead to do the test pits with Otter Creek without archeological oversight.
 - There are some towns that have done that, but there could be consequences including but not limited to having to dig additional test pits and additional cost.
- If the town paid the Otter Creek invoices, the town would definitely get paid back, but we're looking to get that in writing. We're hoping that might enable Otter Creek to work faster. Having to wait this long to make payment had not been foreseen.
- A big stumbling block is that we need to insert costs in the application. This is within Otter Creek's "Scope of Work." If we can finish the application, we should be able to move forward with the archeologist, who needs to do a site visit, and then we can go ahead with the test pit.

Moving forward:

- The plan at this point is for Clark and Rae to meet with Robert and Emily to figure out a path forward.
 - Clark will speak with Emily about whether this would be productive.
 - Goals for that meeting would include:
 - Find out what information including numbers, specifically, that Emily needs from Robert.
 - Can she provide us/him with a list?
 - Would it be possible to get that list ahead of the meeting?

- When Robert can to get that information to Emily.
 - What needs to happen in order for this to move forward?
- David will speak with Sharon Cutler about an alternate test pit site on her property. Noted that her concern was that structures would be visible.
- The Town and the Harwood School District has approved digging up the hill from the school.
- Clark noted that he's had some conversations with the Stevenson's on possibilities with respect to their property.
 - It's possible that their property won't be suitable anyway.
- Clark will look to the Selectboard for authorization to pay Otter Creek for work done so far.
- We're hoping to get test pits started by the end of the month.
- The Clean Water Revolving Fund application is mostly done, we're just waiting for numbers from Otter Creek.
- Jack suggested we have the Chair of the Waitsfield Wastewater Committee meet with us at our 5/18 meeting. He'll contact the chair with a request.
- Clark is looking to work with VLCT because they have a good overview of available funds. Possibilities include:
 - funding available from ACCD
 - money available through Northern Borders though the no future deadline for applications is available.
- The archeologist will do their assessment prior to the when digging begins, and may or may not supervise throughout the process.

The meeting adjourned at roughly 5:55.

Next meeting is on May 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Carroll