

Moretown Clean Water Committee
February 22, 2024
Minutes **DRAFT**

Meeting called to order at 4:30.

Present: Jack Byrne, Deb Carroll & Dave Westerman in person. Clark Amadon, Jay Pilliod & Rae Washburn by zoom.

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

Dave W. made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Rae seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Committee Discussion:

Clark spoke w/ David D. regarding an easement on a property that is of interest. DD has no problem with allowing us to dig test pits, and there is nothing precluding us from moving forward with the test pits. The issue pertains to nearby wells and whether there is enough separation. Per Robert Clark, there are wells on the property that are of concern. Clark will check with DD about the wells and whether or not they are currently in use. In spite of the challenges, we'll likely need to move forward with the test pits on that property if only to rule that site out.

Discussion regarding a public hearing. We're not quite ready to schedule it yet, but we'd like to do it in late March or April. Discussion tonight regarding:

What topics we need to cover.

What questions we can anticipate.

Clark and Emily (why build a system) would likely start the discussion.

The committee's discussion at that meeting might include (in no particular order):

- Purpose of this project:
 - # of systems within the village and what has failed
 - Moretown has a problem that will get bigger
 - this is a problem that isn't going to go away
 - we've been looking for an affordable solution but haven't found one yet
 - We're currently looking at alternative solutions
 - helping the village to thrive
 - changing/new laws in VT that have made it challenging to install new/replace septic systems
 - cost of repairs for local landowners
- Where are we at with respect to disposal in the village:
 - What challenges we've had
 - Siting and what success we've had
- Are small solutions a viable solution?

- Consequences if we are not successful
- Access to funding (now and possibly in the future)
 - Matching grants?
 - Bonding?
 - Cost to individual property owners?

It was suggested that we consider dividing up the village up so that 6-8 families could share one system. Question: Are we making a mistake by not asking our engineers to investigate this possibility now?

What does the town have to put up in matching funds if we just plan to build a system that costs \$3M. (though it was noted that we don't actually have the \$3M now, but it's available if we can move soon).

Clark will speak with Emily about whether the funding that is available for construction can be used to do some studies regarding other things, such as looking into the possibility of doing multiple smaller projects.

Clark will do a brief presentation regarding purpose, progress, and statuts at pre town meeting and town meeting.

We'll meet again on March 7 at 4:30