

Moretown Clean Water Committee  
March 28, 2024  
Minutes **DRAFT**

Meeting called to order at 4:37.

Present: Jack Byrne, Clark Amadon, Jay Pilliod, David Westerman & Rae Washburn. Also: Emily Hackett.

There was no public comment.

Sites discussion:

Additional test pits:

Emily is trying to get the State Archeologist on site for the test pits before May. Robert needs to send her those locations. The test pit digs, due to the recent snow, may be delayed.

Reallocation of ARPA Funding:

Emily described the effort by the State to reallocate APRA Funding. This would affect the ARPA Grant that Moretown received. The short story is Vermont and all other states are required to return to the US Treasury by September 30, 2026 any unused APRA funds. There are other communities that could use additional ARPA funds for projects. These communities are further along in infrastructure than Moretown and could use additional funding. It appears that Moretown will have to give up some of the ARPA grant awarded. However, when Moretown replies to the Reallocation Letter, due any day to the town, Moretown can make a request to maintain some ARPA monies for land acquisition, system design and permit applications. The State plans to do the reallocation by September 1.

The overall goal for The State is to make sure that all the APRA funds are used. Moretown is further behind some projects and the towns loss of some funding would go to communities that are more likely to complete projects.

Moretown so far has been unable to secure enough progress, mainly due to lack of available and workable disposal sites for an in-ground waste water system.

The committee was understandably distressed by this news. There were many comments that some of the lack of progress was due to short staffed offices that could not provide time and personnel for site inspection. There have also been delays on responses to documents and reports. Had there been more timely decisions than Moretown would be further along with this project.

The Moretown SelectBoard is required to reply to the Reallocation Letter. Clark plans to meet with the SB as soon as possible.

Discussion regarding a public hearing.

The Committee is holding the public forum at the Moretown Elementary School on Tuesday April 16th at 7:00 PM. The school has replied that and we have secured that space.

Jack Byre agreed to compose a Front Porch Forum post. The committee also hopes to send a post card to town residents re the event. A press release is also going out to The Valley Reporter, the Waterbury Roundabout and The Times Argus. It'll be posted on the town website and perhaps on MRVTV and the elementary schools newsletter.

The committee reviewed the powerpoint produced by Otter Creek Engineering and had this for feedback:

- \*We would like the presentation to be 30 minutes long.
- \*Make the case that the village has to plan how to take care of the wastewater produced.
- \*The case for a plan needs to lead in the powerpoint slides.
- \*Can there be a slide showing costs? Perhaps using other towns as an example.
- \*Do not state the names of the property owners in any slides. Use a map with starred locations. Have a slide showing all the sites that were considered over time and then a slide showing which sites are still in the mix.
- \*Use images from Moretown Village and not "generic village images"?
- \*Perhaps remove the ARPA fund slide.
- \* There are quite a few slides with examples of wastewater treatment systems. Maybe remove/consolidate a few to shorten the presentation.

The focus is going to be largely informational and serve as an update on what's been done so far. Additionally the forum will show various wastewater system types being considered.

The powerpoint Otter Creek is producing is the main tool we'll be using at the event.

Next Meeting is on Thursday April 10th at 4:30.