

**WASTEWATER ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE
TOWN LIBRARY & ZOOM
OCTOBER 28TH, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES**

Members Present: Holly Delisle (Town Administrator), Maria Barden (Assistant Town Admin/Minute Clerk), Carol Winfield, Lori Johnson, Jeremy Berger, Ron Rodjenski (Stone Shore Consulting), Pat Haller (Selectboard), Martha Heath

Members Absent: Max Tyler

Also Present: *None.*

Meeting Began at: 3:04pm

Amendments to the Agenda:

No Amendments to the Agenda.

Public Comment on items not on the agenda

No Public Comment.

Review and approve minutes of 9/24/2024 & 10/3/2024

P. Haller motioned to approve the minutes for 9/24 and 10/3, **J. Berger** seconded motion . Motion passes, 6-0.

Discussion

R. Rodjenski discusses the radius around the Town Center that they would be sending letters to regarding investigating private property for septic capacity. He discusses even if only a portion of a property was inside the radius, it could be looked at.

M. Heath wonders if we would look at properties where we would need to cross the river, she's worried about the expense and potential for a pipe to break and contaminate the water.

L. Johnson thinks they should discuss potentially taking a step back from this. Is this something they really want to continue to investigate with the potential of 1705 being purchased now. It might be taking a lot of time away from what can be done with 1705.

M. Heath sees things differently and thinks if they wait for 1705 it could take years and many systems could fail in that time, potentially polluting the Town Center and River.

L. Johnson isn't suggesting stopping completely but wonders how far they should go right now; she feels they're jumping ahead and thinks if they're looking for smaller solutions, they should look at who has the most need and then look at adjoining properties to those. She would like to take a more focused approach, pursue the WCH or the RBMH which they've already discussed looking at.

M. Heath feels that the people around the common don't have many options and thinks the purpose of this group was to find alternatives to the project that was voted down, whose purpose was to serve the whole town center.

C. Winfield says WAC serves the Selectboard and they tasked WAC to find solutions for the town but not necessarily one specific location of Town. She thinks the WAC's job is to move forward until the Selectboard tells them to pause. She thinks they all agree the next place to look would be the WCH since that's already been started.

J. Berger thinks WAC needs three buckets, one for what they're working on, one for what's coming next and the third for what's out there. He thinks WAC should start with the one they're currently working on. He also thinks while they are considering these alternatives they need to

find out if they can put the system where we will have the capacity, we need to plan for the possibility of not being able to do that.

P. Haller agrees with Jeremy and at the last meeting they said they'd look at the map which Holly and Ron produced. He thinks the mapped area should go into the 3rd bucket for work in the future. He also thinks we have a system that may or not be the right system on 1705, we need to have contingencies in case it is not. As a group they can do a service to the Town by moving forward and looking for that capacity for not only the short term but long term. He thinks WAC should move forward with approaching the WCH, RBMH, and the Fleury's. The letter going out to the broader group could be the third bucket also.

M. Heath reminds the WAC that the WCH also owns the RBMH.

L. Johnson has already spoken to the RBMH but hasn't discussed it with the owners of the RBMH.

C. Winfield wants to make sure it's clear to owners that disturbance will not be able to be put back after the work is done.

L. Johnson still thinks the letter is unclear with its wording and should be amended before sending it out.

H. Delisle clarifies that it's no "disturbance for survey work" specifically.

R. Rodjenski states that a deadline should be put into the cover letter when sent out.

P. Haller would talk with the Fleury's and Jeff Hutchins.

R. Rodjenski says that we should start with the WCH, RBMH, and the Fleury's. The map is done, and he and Holly can reach out to ANR about the river question. He thinks the committee would prefer to keep with the mission statement and continue their work but stop with any 1705 related work since that is in the SB's jurisdiction now.

C. Winfield says the Fay's have some land that they might want to investigate and add to the list to send a letter to.

L. Johnson says that two Selectboards have now recommended to the Planning Commission that they do a townwide survey, and the Planning Commission hasn't done that.

P. Haller thinks that is on the Selectboard and not the Planning Commission. If they want something done, they need to take the initiative. He thinks the Planning Commission has been a scapegoat and the Selectboard should be working with the Planning Commission to get a survey.

R. Rodjenski reiterates that the Planning Commission has offered to help work with the Selectboard and the Selectboard should reach out to them. The Planning Commission has lived through this, and they would know the sections that created contentiousness from the Town Plan, they could help the Selectboard with that as well.

L. Johnson went to a RBMH meeting and talked with them. She didn't go into details but got an update on their plans for septic. She said they've hired an engineer to investigate what is possible on site, putting in a water meter to see what the true usage is. She sent them a link, so they know exactly how to do that to be of best use to them. She gave them a DEC contact - Denise Turk - who might be able to give them more advice. They said they would be interested in talking and working with WAC, but they only lease the property, and she isn't sure what their lease states. They may be responsible for the building and services and she's not sure how that will tie in with the owners.

H. Delisle asks if **L. Johnson** thinks they would be amenable to having a letter sent to them.

L. Johnson thinks it would be better to have a meeting with them first because they're already moving forward to look into other things and working with an engineer.

M. Heath wonders if they're interested in proving WW to others if capacity allows.

L. Johnson said they have already talked with neighbors to find out who is close by and who might need help. She doesn't think WAC needs to get involved with RBMH since they're already looking into these things themselves.

P. Haller worries that if/when 1705 is a done deal the septic planned might not account for growth. He thinks it would still be beneficial to identify civic buildings that might be able to offer additional soil capacity to the town buildings.

R. Rodjenski says that he's not sure how the state would go about reservations of capacity but wouldn't hesitate to ask them if there is an overage.

L. Johnson said RBMH is looking for maximum and not specific capacity.

M. Heath suggests the RBMH come to a future meeting so they can have a discussion.

L. Johnson wonders if Pat or Holly should broach the subject with the Selectboard about how far they want WAC to go with this amongst town residents before moving forward too much.

Task Assignments

L. Johnson will ask the RBMHS if they can attend a WAC meeting before Thanksgiving.

R. Rodjenski and H. Delisle will work on the garage.

H. Delisle will send a letter to the WCH.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:19pm

DRAFT