

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Village Wastewater Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Neighborhood Connections, 5700 VT Rte. 100
Londonderry, VT**

Village Wastewater Committee (VWC) Members Present: Sharon Crossman (Committee Chair)
Tom Metcalfe, Gary Hedman.

Others in Attendance:

In Person:, Gail Mann

Online: Emily Hackett (EI - Environmental Engineer – VT DEC), Chriss Haskins (DuFresne Group),
Sue Westa (Windham Regional Commission)

1. Call meeting to order:

Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda:

Chrissy asked to add the private property owner fact sheet to the agenda

3. Approval of Minutes:

Gary made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 8, 2023 committee meeting, the motion was seconded and approved.

4. WW Site Selection/Evaluation Plan Updates and Next Steps:

Chrissy updated the Committee on all of the potential effluent disposal sites, based on a summary spreadsheet provided by Tom. Several properties had cleared initial archaeological review, allowing for completion of test pits to evaluate soil suitability. Tom asked what the next steps would be if the test pits revealed favorable conditions at any of the potential sites. Chrissy responded that the test pit results / property layout would be sent to a hydrologist for development of conceptual plans. The conceptual plan would then be presented to the property owner for discussion (privately owned property) of back to the Committee and Select Board. At some sites, a full/additional archaeological assessment would potentially be necessary to support the conceptual plan development, but continued design can occur during that review period

A general discussion was then had about the land purchase deadline of December 2023, with Emily indicating that any extension of the deadline would be on the order of weeks

and not months, and that sufficient evidence of progress would be necessary to be allowed an extension.

Tom then asked if any of the property owners had expressed an interest in selling their property, versus entering into an easement. Chrissy stated that most had indicated they were in favor of easements. Tom then asked Chrissy if DuFresne Group would be managing/coordinating land survey for easements and such - these items would be covered under design phase services and are outside of the scope of the existing funding.

Emily indicated that the State is already receiving applications for funding for the next phase of design, which includes: environmental review, additional archaeology, final design. Gary asked when the Town should start preparing loan applications (forgivable planning loan through the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund). Emily clarified that it would be an amendment to the existing \$125,000 loan. Chrissy would prepare an Engineering Services agreement to facilitate the loan amendment, services under that agreement would include the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Review (consisting of FONSI and public comment period). Completion of these two milestones are critical items to developing the Facility Plan, which is general understood to represent a 30% Design.

Emily mentioned that the overall “bucket” for subsidies this year is smaller than in past years.

Chrissy then discussed the private well testing program. We are waiting on the State to provide new sampling kits. Tom returned the old/expired test kits to the State office on August 10th.

Chrissy then initiated a discussion on the fact sheet for private property owners. The fact sheet includes answers to common/relevant questions on decentralized wastewater systems. Sue will work with Chrissy to finalize the fact sheet and include prior information resources (i.e. test pit information sheet).

Sharon then discussed that at the August 21, 2023 Select Board meeting, Sharon read the Village Wastewater Committees response to letters received from the Doane family regarding the potential siting of an effluent disposal bed in Pingree Park. The Select Board voted that Pingree Park would be removed from any further consideration.

Sue then led a discussion regarding the September 19th Community Outreach meeting planned for Floodbrook School. The Town Moderator is available to facilitate the presentations/discussion. It was agreed that no specific properties would be discussed. It was agreed that the meeting would be hosted on zoom to allow for presenters to attend, and that Sue would look into reviving the QR code for the VWC. Tom then mentioned that the focus of the meeting needed to center on the necessity of the project, and what the associated with the project are and how they will be defrayed to non-system users (i.e. indirect benefit through increased retail/residential opportunity).

Tom asked if he could observe the test pitting process (scheduled for first week of September – the week of 9/4).

5. Pubic Invitation to Speak (5 minute limit per person)

Gail then commented that the September 19th meeting might be premature unless there were items to engage and incentivize people to attend. Tom mentioned the points of focus previously made, and asked if the Mill Building could be used as an example scenario (the question was asked if the Mill Building could reopen as a business with their existing wastewater system). Gail mentioned tying the presentation back to housing. Additional debate ensued, with the end result being that the Committee agreed to postpone the public meeting until mid-October, which would allow DuFresne Group sufficient time to provide preliminary evaluation of sites, based on the test pitting scheduled for the first week of September.

Gary then made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

6. Adjourn:

All approved to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

The next regular meeting of the VWC will be **Friday, September 1st, 2023 at 9:00 AM**

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Gubb
Secretary, Village Wastewater Committee

Approved _____.

Village Wastewater Committee
Sharon Crossman, Chair

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