

Moretown Village Wastewater System
Initial Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 15, 2022
Via Zoom, 6:30 pm- 7:10 pm

Attending:

Clark Amadon, Moretown Planning Commission
Rae Washburn III, Moretown Selectboard
Loida Alvarez
Jack Byrne
Michelle Beard
David Westerman

Topic: Discussion about a possible Moretown Village wastewater system.

A few Moretown village residents met with Rae Washburn from the Moretown Selectboard and Clark Amadon with the Moretown Planning Commission to discuss some ideas, questions and concerns re the possibility of building a village wastewater system in Moretown Village.

Such a system could replace current individual septic systems.

Discussion involved beginning to identify the pluses and minuses of such a system, the state of the current septic systems in the village and how to continue the discussion re such a system.

Clark began with a short overview re the state's urging towns to look seriously at village systems. There are some towns that have built systems like Warren and Rochester. A main impetus from the state to the towns is that village systems can stop or control localized pollution from many single systems in small village footprints especially those villages near streams and rivers.

The group had these questions and comments re village wastewater systems:

- * What issues would putting in such a system solve?
- * What if a resident had put in a system recently and a village system was built?
- * What would be a possible impact if there was another flood?
- * What opportunities would having such a system present for the town?
- * Does the Town Plan encourage growth residentially and commercially in the village?
- * How could a system help out Moretown Elementary School?
- * How does this move forward and what's needed to do so?
- * How are the systems already installed and operating working out?
- * How would such a system influence property values?

Other topics discussed:

Rae updated the group re a "request for qualifications" the town put out for engineers to conduct a feasibility study for a village wastewater system. Thus far no firms have replied. Dave Westerman volunteered to check in with some Norwich Engineering faculty. Clark is calling another firm tomorrow. If an engineer can be found then Moretown can apply for funding to conduct the study.

The group also talked about the aging of the individual septic systems in the village. The housing stock is older in the village as are the individual septic systems. Also, due to geology and village water system use some drinking water and septic water flow in unexpected routes

such as under 100B. Clark estimated that the average age of the village septic systems could be around 30 years.

The group kept an open mind about a system but no real genuine enthusiasm or or lack thereof. A feasibility study if one can be done could answer many questions.

There was general acceptance that such a system would mean better outcomes for water quality of the Mad River. A system would probably raise local property values.

Also, the obvious question of how to pay for a highly engineered and expensive project. While there are considerable financial resources available for infrastructure projects the town would likely have to bond for some costs. Which led the the issue of how to sell this to non-village residents. There would also likely be annual fees paid by village residents to maintain a system.

The meeting ended with a choice to lean on a feasibility study to show the next step.

If anyone would like to know more about the process or has questions or concerns please contact Clark Amadon at 802-498-7570 or clark@amadononline.net