

Clean Water Committee

7/18/24

Minutes

Present, all by zoom: Clark Amadon, Deb Carroll, Rae Washburn, Jack Byrne

Also present: Emily Hackett

The meeting was called to order at about 4:33PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted unanimously.

Clark:

- Both of the disposal sites that we have been looking at recently are not viable sites.
- We received a letter from Robert asking whether we want him to just finish the preliminary engineering report at this time.

Emily Hackett:

- Emily recommends bringing the report to 90%, containing reference to the property that we know will work (the S property – which is the only viable property in the community) and documenting the properties that don't work and why. Also include "what ifs" – e.g., if a suitable property becomes available in the future what would we do. That will help us finish up the PER. Some discussion regarding what her recommendations to Robert will be: the possibility of increasing gallonage by pretreatment, keeping landowners anonymous, estimate the report based on one scenario so as to create a "good number" at the end of the report.
- Consider creating an ordinance (possibly town-wide) which requires pumping every __ [3?] years and require reporting to the town with documentation by the town. That work could get paid for by the subsidy. She will be consulting an outside source – Town of Grafton is doing this, town-wide. Suggested we look at a subsidy that would help people to get their septic systems pumped.
- Regarding the ARPA grant, per Emily we'll receive a "grant closeout" which essentially will say and explain why none of the money was spent.

Clark asked about timeline that will get us to the finish line on this. Emily agrees that it would be good to get this wrapped up by year end.

Per Emily,

- The 60% report is still incomplete (which covers the options we looked at and why those won't work. She noted that we need to have a complete PER (final, 90% report) which will discuss the property that we did look at that could work if the landowners were willing – down the road.

- The clean water revolving fund could help us to purchase a property if one does become available. These reports could give us access to the state revolving fund. I would require an “addendum” to the PER.
 - The drinking water project would not work for us. Installing a community drinking water system is cost-prohibitive. Management and oversight is very expensive.

Committee discussion:

We decided not to proceed with the ordinance.

There may be a possibility of providing education and figuring out ways to help people bring their properties/systems into compliance.

The committee will not meet again at least until we have a 60% report.

Jack made a motion to plan to dissolve the committee on December 31, 2024. Voted on unanimously. The committee will dissolve regardless of whether the reports are done.

The committee will meet again on 8/15 to discuss whether we've seen any progress from Otter Creek and the state. That date can be moved up if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Carroll