

MEETING

West Cornwall Water/Septic Study Group

October 10, 2017 at 5pm at the Cornwall Town Hall

Members Present: Ian Ingersoll (II), Libby Mitchell (LM), Priscilla Pavel (PP), Todd Piker (TP) and Joanne Wojtusiak (JP) Absent: David Dolinsky (DD); Richard Griggs (RG); also present Ex Officio Members Gordon Ridgway (GR) and Richard Bramley (RB).

The meeting was called to order by TP at 5:00pm

Fifteen members of the community were present; also Karen Griswald-Nelson (Cornwall's ZEO) and Steve McDonnell and John Wengell from WMC Consulting Engineers.

Minutes from the September meeting were accepted as presented.

No new written communications had been received.

TP welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming and then invited them to introduce themselves.

Since most attendees had not read the West Cornwall Wastewater Management Study, TP read the Executive Summary to the group. TP complimented Messrs. McConnell and Wengell on incorporating the suggested revisions that had been put forward at our last meeting.

The floor was opened to questions and comments from attendees. Most attendees identified themselves as residents of Upper River Road and most who spoke up were unhappy that they had not been personally contacted by WMC personnel during their on-site visits. Several people said they felt there had not been sufficient public involvement in the process this far. Concerns about the impartiality of WMC provided an opportunity to explain the multi-step process that was followed in order to qualify for the grant money and eventually award the contract to WMC. Some Study Group members expressed their frustration at the lack of public participation during the almost two years the group has been working.

All present expressed a desire to improve communications between the community and the Study Group and expand access to materials; there was agreement that a multi-page report like this is difficult to read and comment on in a digital format and that making a hard copy available would be preferable.

LM suggested making hard copies of the final Study available at the WC Library. It was agreed that since the report contains multiple large size colored maps it would not be feasible to reproduce them at the town office. GR indicated that it would be possible to work out a way to make 50 or so copies and make them available to interested citizens; in addition a digital copy of the final report will be posted on the www.cornwallct.org website.

John Wengell projected a series of visuals (from the Study) that illustrated various possible configurations for the proposed system and he and Steve McDonnell answered questions from those present.

TP reminded all present that this Study is just a first step. GR noted that septic and water issues in WC have been a long-standing item of concern and addressing them was a part of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD) that was written nearly 10 years ago. All present were reminded that the town is beginning work on a new POCAD and the first meeting will be October 20th at 7pm at CCS.

Because of time constraints, TP asked Study Group members to submit their comments and corrections in writing to WMC so a final version of the Report can be completed.

It was agreed to move our next meeting to November 7th and to set Friday, November 10th at 7pm for a town-wide Informational Meeting at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.