

West Cornwall Water/Septic Study Group
Hughes Library in West Cornwall
October 9, 2018

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

Waiting for the meeting to be called to order, LM referred audience members to a video demonstrating the mechanics of one innovative system that might be a possible solution to West Cornwall's septic issues. You can view the video by going to the Home page at www.cornwallct.org and scroll down to "One Possible Option for a Wastewater Treatment System in West Cornwall."

TP called the meeting to order at 5:05PM. Minutes of the June 21st meeting were accepted as presented.

GR told the group that he, TP and LM had traveled to Old Saybrook, CT to examine how they have addressed their wastewater issues with various innovative systems. While the problems WC faces are not exactly the same as Old Saybrook they found the visit interesting, informative and encouraging. One of the conclusions that Old Saybrook reached was that it was more cost effective to discharge treated effluent into a body of water rather than underground.

GR also informed the group that he had received a visit from USDA representatives that were in the area because they are funding projects (small community wastewater systems) in Norfolk and Kent. GR noted that they are funding 46% of the Norfolk project...nearly double the amount that we had been led to believe might be available for funding this type of project.

TP reiterated his feeling that the Committee has completed its initial mission as directed by the Board of Selectmen and should either disband or move forward under a new commission from the BOS. Discussion ensued and neither GR or RB endorsed disbanding and indicated that the charge to the Committee had not yet been fulfilled and suggested the Committee should continue its work.

TP suggested scheduling a visit to Hillsdale, NY to see their system. GR will contact Hillsdale officials to set a date for the inspection. The Committee had learned about the Hillsdale project during the QBS process when they interviewed Ryan Biggs' firm that did the project. At the time we thought such an innovative system would not be acceptable to CT DEEP officials, but that apparently has changed.

GR said he sees 4 issues that must be addressed:

- Site – reference was made to LM's offer of her barn property
- Financing – including final cost
- Scope – area to be covered
- Alternatives

Meeting attendees expressed a number of concerns including the possible location and visual impact of any facility, problems with a possible system failure, smell and there were also concerns about a shriveling economic base if no steps are taken to remedy the wastewater issues.

JW urged the Committee to write a letter to the Economic Development POCAD Sub-Committee to urge them to strongly endorse a solution to WC's wastewater issues and to support town-wide financial support for any proposed solution. The Committee decided to invite the POCAD Sub-Committee to send a representative to our next meeting so they can gain a better understanding of WC's wastewater issues and what they can do to help solve them.

TP said our next meeting will be November 13th at 5PM at the Hughes Library. The Committee hopes to complete their Hillsdale inspection before our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Wojtusiak

Secretary