

Rec. 2/19/19 Pam Jennifer Fanson, asst. town clerk

West Cornwall Wastewater Study Group
Town Hall, February 11, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Members Present: Don Bachman (DB), Richard Griggs (RG), Priscilla Pavel (PP), Todd Piker (TP), Betsy Preston (BP), Lisa Simont (LS), and Joanne Wojtusiak (JW)

Also attending: ex officio member Gordon Ridgway (GR)

Absent: David Dolinsky (DD), Ian Ingersoll (II)

TP called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

LS moved to approve the minutes of the 1/8/19 meeting; seconded by JW. TP noted that the letter from the BOS was not yet ready. The letter was to be mailed to West Cornwall residents—including those who reside in downtown West Cornwall up to the former West Cornwall Market—to determine the extent of their interest in and support of the wastewater project, and to calculate the potential number of users. GR indicated that the BOS would have the letter ready by mid-March.

Steve McDonald (SM) stated that prices for the system are not yet nailed down. The figures that he is working with are based on a 0.5 increase in the town's mill rate. This would cover all installation costs, operation and maintenance costs, and purchase price for a location for the facility.

JW suggested sending a letter to all residents of the Town of Cornwall explaining that the cost of the system will be borne by the entire town. LS added that we might want to initiate community outreach and provision of information to the public.

JW recommended that the board investigate the possibility of avoiding the release of treated water into the Housatonic River. She cited the Bonny Brook development in Cornwall Bridge, which disposes septic outflow into a system beneath its parking lot. SM stated that he would look into this.

Siting: Discussion involved the following seven potential sites:

- *The Toll House* is a possibility, but size of the property is a question. It would be agreeable to this choice.
- *The Lush House*, Route 128.
- *The Bend* (Lower River Rd.): not likely, as Eversource shows no interest in accommodating the facility at that location.
- *Northern River Rd.*: a possibility; SM to investigate further.
- *The Hellman house*, Smith Place. Very possible because of location and electric availability.
- *Farnsworth bookstore*: family shows no interest at the moment.
- *Griggs/Costello properties*: Yes with Griggs; no with Costello; also, the question was raised as to whether or not the Costello property was even necessary.

JW made a motion (seconded by LS) to request \$3,500 from the BOS to engage a second engineer to review WMC's proposal. GR stated that approval of such a motion would require going back to the town for its consent. The motion failed. Those in favor: DB, RG, JW; those opposed: GR, BP, LS, TP. Following the vote, TP suggested that JW compose a letter to the DEP concerning a possible review of the WMC proposal.

Financing issues: GR reported on his trip to Washington, DC, to discuss funding issues with Cornwall's congressional delegation (Sens. Blumenthal and Murphy; Rep. Jahana Hayes). Sen. Blumenthal expressed certainty that Cornwall could get 45% funding for the project.

LS asked that the town assure West Cornwall residents that it will support them financially with the hookup costs should the project be approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. upon motion by LS and second by BP.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Bachman
Secretary