

West Cornwall Wastewater Study Group

Town Hall on January 8, 2019 at 5PM

Members Present: Don Bachman (DB), David Dolinsky (DD), Richard Griggs (RG), : Ian Ingersoll (II), Priscilla Pavel (PP) Todd Piker (TP), Betsy Preston (BP), Lisa Simont (LS) and Joanne Wojtusiak (JW).
Absent: Ex Officio Member: Gordon Ridgway (GR) .

TP called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

PP moved to approve amended Minutes from 12/11/18 meeting; seconded by RG and passed unanimously. TP referenced correspondence from Alisa Epstein that he had distributed to the Study group members that detailed an innovative system implemented in NYS.

TP postponed Housekeeping Agenda items because Steve McDonnell (SM) from WMC had to leave early. TP asked AM to comment on the site walk that had taken place in WC the previous Friday despite the rainy weather and icy ground. Members of the Study Group as well as interested neighbors had met at the Wish House and walked various sites including property owned by the Griggs, Susan Helman, Barbara Farnsworth and the old meat market and the open fields north of town along River Road. Since that site walk two additional properties have been discussed including that of Joe Lush and II's Toll House property.

SM stated that the small size of some of the properties was less of an issue than the lack of 3 phase power at some locations. He stated that his initial thought is that the Helman property may offer the greatest promise because, among other reasons, it is furthest away from its neighbors. SM also said he already has a really good handle on the likely number of potential users and that if just those in the "business core" are to be served then the output might be as little as 12,000 gallons. SM reminded the group that the output of any system will require pre-treatment...the water must be renovated whether it ultimately goes into the Housatonic or into an underground system. SM was asked about using the Town owned brush/debris site, but his answer was not specific.

At our last meeting we asked the BOS to prepare a mailing to WC residents to determine their interest and support for a wastewater system. PP stated that she will request that the BOS prepare the letter and have it ready for our next meeting. The group was reminded that the impetus for the Study Group was to enable all property owners, commercial and residential, to develop their properties as they desire with the expectation that such development will increase West Cornwall's vibrancy, not because of reports of failing septic systems.

After a brief discussion and TP's urging that a Vice-Chair be named to replace Libby Mitchell, LS moved the following slate: Todd Piker, Chair; Betsy Preston, Vice-Chair; Don Bachman, Secretary. The slate was elected by a unanimous vote. Thanks were extended to TP for his past service and willingness to continue as Chair.

There were several questions from the audience and a request that residents have an opportunity to input into the letter that the BOS plan to send to WC residents. PP said that discussion of the letter content should properly be brought up at the next BOS meeting.

The date of our next meeting was changed to Monday, February 11th to accommodate travel schedules of Group members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Wojtusiak
Secretary