

Town of Wolfeboro
Wolfeboro Waters
Mitigation and Prevention Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021
10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting only

Attendees: Peter Goodwin, Art Slocum, Karen Lancaster, Mike Turner, Tavis Austin, Rich Masse, Pat Tarpey; Kathy Barnard arrived at 10:17am.

1. Call to Order at 10:07 am Rich Masse took the reins while we waited for Kathy to join the meeting.

2. Discussion about the Wolfeboro Bay Watershed summary, Pat Tarpey Executive Director, Lake Winnepesaukee Association; Tavis Austin (Wolfeboro Planning and Development Director), committee members

Rich. This is primarily about what the project should be. Decision was made to review the summary document page by page.

Page 1. Statement of purpose – map shows where Wolfeboro Bay fits into a Winnepesaukee-wide watershed plan.

Peter felt a 4-page document was too big. People won't read it. It will go into the trash. Two audiences. Select board want details, general public needs less.

Rich felt this document is for decision makers: the Waters Committee, folks who will have input, BOS, budget, conservation commission, and any others whose support we would want. A second document geared to the public can come later.

Page 2. Summarizes the goals of the project and basically what would be in a watershed plan. Winnipesaukee is listed as an impaired water.

In response to a question from Pat, Rich indicated that the modeling component of the Wentworth-Crescent watershed plan was completed in the initial phase, from 2010 to 2012.

Page 3. Rich said the proposed funding model for this project is breaking new ground for Wolfeboro. State funding now goes only to remediation phases of watershed work. In the past, Section 319 monies funded all phases of these projects. It is going to take fundraising. That will fall on the steering committee in particular and the Waters Committee in general. Some monies might come from a stormwater mitigation fund that was passed at town meeting. Wolfeboro is a great community to do the fundraising. We have built a new library and a new town hall through public/private fundraising.

Tavis thought that this could be an \$85,000 project. He said he'd had a positive discussion with NHDES regarding the use of Section 604b money, which is a loan that comes with principal forgiveness of up to \$75,000. Under the scenario discussed, this would leave a \$10,000 bill to be paid from local sources. That could come out of the \$50,000 that was just approved.

Subsequent implementation phases of the watershed plan could then be funded by the usual Section 319 monies.

The town would want to do a pre-application for 604b monies in June of this year. If the project gets approval from DES to go forward, a final application for funding would be submitted to DES in the September-October time frame. Assuming that funding for the project is then approved, the 2022 Town Meeting would need to approve acceptance of the loan from the state.

This chronology would have the project starting work in spring or summer of 2022.

Art thought we should still do some fundraising in order to keep a capital reserve

for ongoing upkeep.

Rich agreed, saying the watershed management plan is not a one and done. It will require coming back to it year after year.

Page 4. Is about how the plan would be managed. With Wentworth/Crescent the watershed association took the lead on finding people to work on the steering committee. Pat had suggested in a previous meeting that there might be 10-12 people at most. Rich said that the Wentworth plan has had 4 or 5 people. Bigger area would need more people but 7 or 9 at most.

Pat. You really end up with 6 to 8 people who are really committed to it. That is a core group.

Rich. The document assumes a couple of people on board. Director of Planning and Director of Public Works. If we can get Tavis and Dave Ford to be engaged, that would make a big difference. Warren Muir from the Waters Committee would probably want to be involved. Rich said he thought that it is important to open it up to the public. It's a community-wide project. Need to have people who are enthused about it.

Pat. Is this going to be a town approved committee?

Rich. This will be a committee put together by the Wolfeboro Waters Committee. They represent the bigger community. In terms of oversight and management, he said he expected that the Wolfeboro Waters Committee would appoint the members of the steering committee.

Pat. In the past we have opened it up to whoever wants to be on it. It is nice to get different people involved, expand the reach and network. I think it would be good to get at least one person from Alton and one person from New Durham.

Rich asked whether New Durham touches Lake Winnepesaukee.

Pat. New Durham does not touch the lake but it has Beaver Brook that flows into the Bay. Alton touches the water.

Rich. What do we have to offer to New Durham? It is easier to make the case to Alton. New Durham is more removed.

Mike asked for confirmation that this will be a Wolfeboro Waters project.

Art. New Durham has their hands full with the fish hatchery. With attention to fundraising, should we target waterfront property owners for the steering committee? They have a vested interest and perhaps deep pockets.

Rich. People who have waterfront homes, in some ways have conflicting interests. Along with any kind of plan like this there are costs. Mitigation may be needed.

Rich. We have a few things to clean up. We need to wait for Tavis for information on how the 604b funding would work. There is a Waters Committee meeting on March 22, so we need the document completed by then. Then we go from there.

Tavis said he has an email out to DES regarding the 604b funding and, as soon as he has a response he will let the group know.

Rich. We will put the plan to the full committee next week.

Pat will put the latest document file in the shared Dropbox folder. Rich and Pat will decide who makes the changes discussed today.

4. Adjournment at 10:50am.