

WOLFEBORO WATERS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 18th 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Wolfeboro Public Library, Bradley Room

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Linda Murray (Chair), Abigail Adams, Kathy Barnard, Julie Brown (Wentworth Watershed Association), Brad Harriman (Board of Selectmen Rep), Richard Masse (attending remotely), Warren Muir, Paul O'Brien, Libby Peard, Bree Rossiter (Lake Winnepesaukee Association)

Not Present: Mary DeVries, Art Slocum, Mike Turner

Consideration of the Wolfeboro Waters Committee [WWC] Meeting Minutes of April 17th 2023. Warren Muir had an edit: "Whitegate" is one word.

Chair Linda Murray made a motion to approve the 4/17/2023 Minutes of Wolfeboro Waters Committee Meeting, with corrections. Seconded by Libby Peard. The Motion was approved (7-1-0), with Kathy Barnard abstaining.

Environmental Engineer to be Hired by the Town:

- The Board of Selectmen put out a Request for Qualifications [RFQ] to hire an Environmental Engineer to advise the Town about three project areas: 1) Route 28, 2) Port Wedeln Road, 3) Whitegate Road.
- To date, three engineering firms have responded to the RFQ.
- K. Barnard suggested that the WWC send her its recommendations for additional qualifications for the Environmental Engineer.
- W. Muir suggested that the Environmental Engineer include dissolved phosphorus in their calculations.

Discussion about the Hunter's Lot Presentation at 5/16/2023 Planning Board Hearing:

- R. Masse reviewed the discussion at the 5/16/2023 Planning Board [PB] hearing regarding the Hunter's lot proposal, where the previously existing structure for the Hunter's Shop N Save supermarket was demolished and a new structure is proposed with a 25% expansion of the previous building footprint. He said that Libby Peard and Abby Adams conveyed the WWC's concerns at the hearing.
- R. Masse said that the Hunter's lot proposal appears to have an adequate Stormwater Management Plan. A proposed Stormwater Control Device [SC-Device] was shown in the 5/16/2023 Site Plan; the location was at the southwest corner of the Hunter's lot [Tax Map 17, Lot 58]. A proposed speed bump at the driveway entrance(s) may redirect some stormwater.

- At the hearing, the proposed Stormwater Control Device [SC-Device] was described as able to capture about 80% of the stormwater runoff on the lot. R. Masse said that Randy Tetreault of Norway Plains Assoc. proposed statistics which fall short of the Town Stormwater Regulations: nitrogen is about 15% short of the requirements, phosphorus exceeds requirements.
- J. Brown asked about the new building roof? She recommends a catchment system for the roof of the proposed new building [shown on the 5/16/2023 Site Plan as having a footprint of about 16,000 SF]. There is a need to address the proposed new building structure independently of the surface area of the lot.
- R. Masse said that there is a need to better understand the Town's review process for the Hunter's lot. The applicant seems to be in a hurry. Can the Wolfeboro Water Committee comments to the Planning Board be worked into the proposal? R. Masse heard differently from Abby and Libby.
- Regarding the treatment for Total Suspended Solids, R. Masse said _____. The proposed Stormwater Control Device may also remove hydrocarbons, given that this site will continue to have intensive automobile and truck use [for example, for supermarket visitors, supply distribution, and waste removal].
- R. Masse believes that the Applicant is coming as close as possible to doing more for Stormwater Management on this site.
- Applicant said that they intend to ask for Waivers of some zoning requirements. K. Barnard explained the Waiver process. L. Peard said the Applicant may ask for a Waiver of Landscaping Requirements, due to pressure to keep as many parking spaces as possible on this site.
- B. Rossiter suggested a rain garden for the roof of the proposed new building [footprint area is approximately 16,000 SF]. J. Brown said that everyone worked very hard to get the Stormwater Regulations into the Town Zoning Regulations.
- K. Barnard suggested that R. Masse get in touch with the engineers of the Stormwater Management Plan for the Hunter's lot. The engineers at the PB hearing on 5/16/2023 offered to be in touch with the WWC, so she suggested making contact.
- R. Masse asked if WWC should address their concerns via the Planning Board? K. Barnard said yes and, ideally, as soon as possible. She said that the Applicant will return to the Planning Board for the proposed Boundary Line Adjustment in early June.
- J. Brown pointed out that no Waivers are currently proposed for the Hunter's lot by the Applicant; she recommends that no Waivers be granted by the Town for the Hunter's lot until the WWC knows more.

- P. O'Brien explained how to do a simple Volume Calculation of Stormwater Runoff from the plot plan; for example, the site has a rhombus shape, the site area can be calculated. If a Fifty-Year Rainstorm generates one inch of stormwater runoff, the volume of water can be calculated.
- K. Barnard suggested that the WWC send her its recommendations for additional qualifications for the Environmental Engineer which the Town is in the process of hiring, via a Request for Qualifications [RFQ].
- W. Muir suggested that the Environmental Engineer include dissolved phosphorus in their calculations.

Discussion about the WWC Stormwater Checklist and the EPA Report on Impacts to Stormwater

Infrastructure:

- J. Brown asked about the intention to prepare a Checklist of Stormwater Infrastructure Impacts for property owners to consider when building upon or improving their property.
- B. Rossiter cited an existing 150-page document prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], with questions to ask property owners about impacts to stormwater infrastructure.
- Suggestion to distribute the EPA document to the Planning Board before June 5th 2023, to the Board of Selectmen, and to the Town Department Heads.
- W. Muir suggested that the EPA document also be posted on the WWC Website and in the WWC Newsletter.
- Chair L. Murray suggested that the WWC also get in touch with the Conservation Commission.
- B. Rossiter of the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. said she can co-brand with J. Brown of the Wentworth Watershed Assoc.

Julie Brown made a motion for the Wolfeboro Waters Committee to distribute a Stormwater Checklist to the Planning Board, to the Conservation Commission, to Town Departments, and to the Board of Selectmen; also, to post the Stormwater Checklist on the Wolfeboro Waters Committee website and in their newsletter. Seconded by Chair Linda Murray. Approved unanimously (7-0-0).

Discussion about Albee Beach:

- R. Masse e-mailed his report about Albee Beach to WWC members earlier today.
- Review of the site photos by R. Masse; he believes that the site photos show conformance to the plan drawings.
- R. Masse said that the WWC has made a positive impact on development in the Town.
- J. Brown referred to Steve Randall, suggesting positive feedback. She believes that the site design is a Phase I proposition; however, it does not address a complete solution to the overall problem.

Discussion about WWC Subcommittees, a.k.a. Working Groups, and a Nomination:

- R. Masse would like to nominate Lauren _____ to help the WWC. He asked Chair L. Murray if the WWC could create a subcommittee with people who aren't WWC members?
- Chair L. Murray said yes, these are called "Working Groups." For example, WWC needs people to help with the collection and analysis of water samples.

- She explained that the Board of Selectmen appoints WWC members; and subsequently, the WWC has the capacity to appoint people to its subcommittees or its “Working Groups.”

Rich Masse made a motion to approve the appointment of Lauren _____ to a Subcommittee or Working Group of the Wolfeboro Waters Committee. Seconded by Warren Muir. Approved unanimously (7-0-0).

Chair L. Murray asked if there were any more comments on Mitigation and Prevention?

Discussion about Monitoring Streams and Collecting Water Samples:

- Chair L. Murray said that the number of trout has diminished and is very low right now.
- W. Muir said that Rick Vanderpoel received funding to research streams and made a presentation about the “re-naturalization” of streams.
- B. Rossiter asked if the term “re-naturalization” refers to stream erosion or to _____? She said that Rick is working on this project with Shannon. The Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. did a presentation on this topic at Prescott Farm last week.
- W. Muir and J. Brown will contact Rick Vanderpoel.
- W. Muir said that there is a need to do the following: 1) To monitor stream flows, 2) To collect sediment samples, 3) To use the fluorometer.
- The UNH Intern will begin on June 1st 2023. As a UNH employee [whose stipend was approved for funding by the Town], the Intern will do laboratory work for the Town for six weeks.
- The Deckers have offered their guest house for use as a workspace, for processing and analyzing water samples.
- The timing of the laboratory training at Bigelow Labs must be confirmed.

Discussion about Refrigerated Storage of Water Samples:

- L. Murray said that there is a refrigerator located downtown, with a small freezer section.
- J. Brown suggested that WWC seek the donation of a small refrigerator.
- B. Rossiter said that she’s working with Steve Wingate to find a small refrigerator.
- J. Brown said that she’s trying to coordinate the storage of water samples with her volunteers.
- W. Muir suggested that university students graduating at this time of year could be a source of donations of small refrigerators.

Report on the Lakes Region Water Summit:

- A. Adams said the Water Summit was very successful. A \$500 donation was received, to promote the Lakes Region Water Summit on magnets and stickers.
- J. Brown suggested that the WWC website present information about the Lakes Region Water Summit; she thanked the WWC on behalf of the Wentworth Watershed Assoc., for supporting the Water Summit.

Report on the Russ Pond Project:

L. Peard said that work will begin on public land in November 2023, the completion date should be November 2024.

W. Muir discussed public vs. private property.

Discussion about A-319 Grant Funds:

- J. Brown suggested an Agenda item: to look at grant funding. She asked if the WWC could discuss an A-319 grant. Coordination is needed with other jurisdictions, to avoid competition for the same source of funds.
- B. Rossiter said that the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. has a grant for a project in the Town of Tuftonboro, Carroll County. For upcoming grant applications, there would be a need to coordinate between the Town of Wolfeboro, Carroll County, and Belknap County.
- A. Adams asked if we are competing with each other when applying for A-319 funding; for example, for Wolfeboro Bay, or for _____ Pond?
- J. Brown said, "We have our buckets out."
- Rossiter said that each bucket has specific application guidelines.
- P. O'Brien asked if the Town of Wolfeboro receives money from NH for milfoil control?
- Rossiter said yes. She noted that, right now, New Hampshire is out of compliance with the Coast Guard. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island are also out of compliance. Eventually, all of these states will have to comply.

Discussion about Whitegate Road:

- Chair L. Murray said that Whitegate Road has existed for about seventy years without any major issues, until the past year.
- W. Muir said that three major events have occurred in the span of only one year: 1) A portions of the road has washed out, 2) Some houses near this road have been flooded, 3) There is erosion along Whitegate Road due to the culverts on Partridge Drive, where water flows from two streams. There is a third stream which flows from Wolfeboro Commons.
- W. Muir said that, to address some of these issues, the Town Department of Public Works [DPW] showed up and moved dirt around.
- W. Muir said he is seeing work continuing in the community "above us."
- B. Rossiter said that the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. has asked to see the Proposed Scope of Work.
- An RFQ was put out on 5/1/2023 and a meeting for interested contractors was scheduled for 5/10/2023.
- W. Muir said that the previous work by an engineer, in 2015, was flawed; currently there are issues about rain and flooding which are affecting residential sales.
- B. Rossiter has had conversations with Steve Randall and _____, the main points were: 1) Downhill water flows are a given, 2) Do not measure sediment, 3) Do not include the third stream [flowing from Wolfeboro Commons?]
- It was suggested by one contractor that proper road maintenance is also an issue: culverts fill up with sediment, stormwater runoff is blocked, after which flooding can occur. Culverts may need to be cleared of sediment more frequently.

- W. Muir said, “We are replacing culverts and repairing roads.”
- Chair L. Murray said that Whitegate Road has been in a bad situation; however, the issues are not unique. She said that everyone is getting a better about understanding and addressing the issues.
- B. Rossiter pointed out that the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. is granted A-319 funds to do design work.
- The previous design work by Underwood Designs is not moving forward.
- Three engineering firms have responded to the RFQ put out recently by the Town of Wolfeboro.
- Mapping the water catchment area of the third stream [from Wolfeboro Commons?] would be a very costly project, requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- B. Rossiter said that she appreciates the concerns of the residents on Whitegate Road. She pointed out the different objectives of the grant funding: the current grant is focused on water quality, not property damage.

Discussion about Green Street and Port Wedeln Road:

- Chair L. Murray asked about the status of the Green Street Contract.
- B. Harriman said that the Green Street Contract has been awarded by the Board of Selectmen [BOS].
- Regarding Port Wedeln Road, B. Harriman said that the BOS met last Monday about Stormwater Mitigation, the contract for this project will go out in 2024. DES and the residents who were at this meeting were pleased about the decision to not use the previously engineered design.
- Chair L. Murray reiterated that the Environmental Engineer that the Town is in the process of hiring will advise the Town on three projects: 1) Route 28, 2) Port Wedeln Road, 3) Whitegate Road.

Discussion about Capturing Phosphates:

- B. Rossiter said that she is not aware of any existing municipality or device that is able to capture phosphates.
- W. Muir said that there are student projects which are researching this issue; for example, with the use of mesh filters and robots. As the concentration of phosphates continues to rise, this issue will become more urgent.
- K. Barnard explained the timing of roadway improvement projects. The project must first be listed in the Capital Improvement Projects, after which it can go to the BOS. There is a Dept. of Transportation [DOT] meeting on 5/24/2023.

Ponding in the Dockside Parking Lot:

Water ponding in the parking lot was caused by a broken drainpipe. The Town Manager had the Dept. of Public Works [DPW] remove the puddle by pumping out the water.

More Discussion on the WWC Stormwater Checklist:

- Abby Adams asked about an uphill residential development that will be taking place soon.
- J. Brown cited the Shoreline Master Plan and suggested sending a letter with the WWC Stormwater Checklist to property owners and developers, with a message about mindfulness. For example, “Please be mindful of your location in a sensitive watershed area. Everything in the Town of Wolfeboro flows into the Wentworth Watershed area and Lake Winnepesaukee.”

- P. O'Brien said that there is an incentive for some property owners to cut trees because tree-cutting generates payment.
- W. Muir said that there is a lot of information about the importance of retaining trees, he cited a neighboring jurisdiction.
- B. Rossiter said that the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. has postcard mailers about tree retention.
- Chair L. Murray said, "Let's refer to this Stormwater Checklist as a DRAFT document."

6/3/2023 Promotional Event by the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. and the Twin Barns Brewing Co.:

B. Rossiter invited everyone to the 6/3/2023 Release Party for a new beer named "Keep Winni Blue" (a blueberry sour). One dollar of each can sold will be donated to the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc.

Discussion about the Watershed Management Plan:

- W. Muir said that there is water issue from Alton [according to Rick Vanderpoel?]
- B. Rossiter said that the Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc. models water quality, they do not collect samples.
- Chair L. Murray suggested contact with the Steering Committee of Alton.
- B. Rossiter said she could get contact info for Tom Devany [sp?]
- B. Rossiter cited the two boundaries of the Wentworth Watershed: 1) The Wolfeboro Bay boundary, and 2) the Wentworth Lake boundary. It would be important to clarify the boundaries and outlets in the future, for the Watershed Management Plan.

At 2:50 p.m. Chair Linda Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by _____.
Approved unanimously (7-0-0).