**Town of Grafton**

WATER/WASTEWATER STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Minutes

Members present: Matt Siano, Chris Wallace, and Suzanne Welch,

Members absent: Paul Hallock, Kim Record

Guest: Meg Gonzalez

Ex-Officio member absent: Stan Mack

1. **Meeting called to order**: 5:35 PM
2. **Adopt agenda**: Motion by Chris, seconded by Matt, motion passed
3. **Approve minutes of October 10,2019**: postpone approval – quorum did not include enough members present on October 10
4. **Review action items**
* Done. Kim will check in with Mark to see if he has heard back from any of the individuals that tested positive for total coliform and be sure he knows that the committee is available to help in anyway.
* TBD. Stan will bring to the select board the importance of updating our current “Septic Pumping Ordinance” and possibly add language explaining the benefits of routine water testing
* Done. Chris will keep the committee up to date and with the future survey conducted by the Planning Commission. Chris reported that conducting the survey is one of two top priorities for the PC in 2020. The PC may seek professional guidance in designing the survey and the committee previewed some examples of the form the survey might take. The committee re-affirmed the value of partnering with the PC on the survey.
* TBD. Next meeting the committee will focus on what should/could go into the Planning Commissions survey
* Done. Yes. Kim will also check with Mark for permission to distribute the water quality results with the select board and Suzanne present a quick 2-minute review at the next select board meeting on October 21st.
1. **Sub-team Follow-up**
	1. Chris reported for the sub-team (Kim, Paul, Chris) working on the Town’s historical ages of septic systems and their repairs. Since 2000, 14 septic applications for modifications have been made.
		1. Next steps are i
			1. Investigate further what modifications were made and why
			2. Copy two T&B charts of septic maps (in the septic pumping district) as “working copies” for recording additional data about the septic systems
		2. Also, self-reporting about septics from the drinking-water survey will be used.
	2. Suzanne reported for the sub-team (Stan, Suzanne), who reviewed the Town’s historical documents associated with past water studies. The team reviewed documents dating from 1992 to date. There have been 4 studies, none of which culminated in a Town vote or other action. To insure action on the current committee’s work, our goal is to bring a study forward to inform the Town on a Town Meeting vote to pursue – or not – a change to the Town’s current water management system (water and/or wastewater).
		1. Historical documents are neatly filed in notebooks, along with an inventory of documents and key takeaways from the sub-team’s review
		2. Following this report, the committee will recommend to the Select Board that a Water Committee be named a Select Board standing committee.
2. **Other Business**:
	1. Meg and Chris followed up with Denise Martin on her concern about erosion around a “storm drain” on her property. Meg and Chris surveyed the water flow and found 4 “grates”. They heard a surge of water going into the river from the outlet pipe. They recommended studying more about the underground water flow from the ball field to the river.
	2. Matt reached out to two resources for the committee’s education about wastewater systems
		1. Matt is obtaining a cost-comparison from a local independent contractor, using the quote from Otter Creek as the basis of comparison
		2. On January 9, 2020, Gary Ritter, an academic researcher and 40-year environmental professional, has agreed to discuss with the committee current wastewater technology
3. **Action Items**
	1. Kim: how to cover the cost of copies of the septic charts?
	2. Paul: history of underground water structure from ball field to river
	3. Suz: Mark re access to additional water testing kits?
	4. Chris: what steps to recommend Water as a “standing committee” to the Select Board?
	5. Approve October 10 minutes at next committee meeting
4. **Public Comment**: none
5. Next meeting to be held December 5, 2019 at 5:30. No meeting on December 19. Following meeting on January 9, 2020.
6. **Adjourn:** Motion by Chris, seconded by Matt, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:59PM

 Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Welch, Committee Chair (substituting for Kim Record, Committee Secretary)