Water/Wastewater Study Commission

Minutes

1. DATE: March 17, 2021. Meeting called to order 6:31 PM.
2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Meg Gonzalez, Paul Hallock, Matt Siano, Chris Wallace, Suzanne Welch
3. MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:
4. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT:
5. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Stan Mack
6. PUBLIC PRESENT: None
7. GUEST SPEAKER(s) PRESENT: Mark Johnson
8. AGENDA Approved
   1. Motion: Matt
   2. Second: Paul
   3. Vote: Unanimous to Approve
9. 2-17-21 MINUTES APPROVED – Thanks, Meg!
   1. Motion: Meg
   2. Second: Matt
   3. Discussion: None
   4. Vote: Unanimous to Approve
10. ACTION ITEM REVIEW
    1. March *The Grafton News* article – DONE – Thanks, Chris!
    2. Follow-up February 17 “Path Forward” Discussion
       1. Revise Path Forward document to reflect decisions made: DONE
          1. “Get on with it”. Decision to move forward with engineering study.
          2. Community education program to begin in May.
       2. Shared leadership model: PENDING 3-17 discussion
          1. Chris to lead Community Education; Meg support
          2. Matt to lead Engineering Study; Paul support
       3. Select Board make this a priority project: Suz scheduled SB agenda on April 5.
       4. Risk Assessment: Matt
          1. Matt spoke with Gary Ritter, his colleague from UMass, and Bart Cushing re risk assessment, specifically requesting “real-life” examples from their experience
    3. Approval RCAP Community Service Agreement
       1. Commissioners took this opportunity to thank Mark for his valuable support!

Motion: Chris

Second: Matt

Vote: Unanimous to Approve

Suz authorized to sign and return agreement to Mark

1. Shared Leadership Model – are we ready to recommend this approach to SB on April 5?
   1. All Commissioners voiced their support of the model
      1. Chris agreed to take on leadership of Community Education, with the expressed request for understanding of his “limited availability” between now and August. Commissioners expressed our agreement and gratitude for Chris taking on this responsibility for the Commission
      2. Meg expressed that “Shared Leadership” is “not the ideal”, but that it “can work”. Commissioners agreed with this point of view. She asked about our and the SB’s “long-term vision” for the Commission, i.e. where does it go from here if voters – once again – do not approve? A discussion ensued: life-cycle of the Commission through community education and engineering study phase. Then, determination about taking recommendation, if there is one, to Town vote. If turn down, then Commission dissolves or remains as a “monitoring” Commission
      3. All agreed the Commission’s work is about “necessity of safe drinking water” in Grafton, thus insuring continuing economic viability of the Town and moving Grafton toward a 21st Century infrastructure for economic development. Urgency of the project was compared to that of the Town Garage funding approval, which – in fairness – took priority after Irene flooding-damage to previous Town Garage. Our goal is to find a workable solution for wastewater and safe drinking water BEFORE a catastrophe occurs.
   2. Suz shared that in her discussions with Commissioners about the Shared Leadership model, a “skill set” gap needed to be filled; namely, a person who was “willing and able” to take on the Administrative tasks of the Commission’s work. These tasks include warnings, agendas, tracking action items, timetables for work streams, and other organizational matters necessary to “keep the momentum” going
      1. Suz proposed a 5th member of the Commission to fill this role: Charles (Charlie) V. Bonin, part-time Grafton resident, 70 School St.
      2. Charlie had agreed to join the Commission and fill the Administrative role, if
         1. Commissioners agreed with Zoom participation and understanding of his “limited” time in Grafton, especially during COVID
      3. Discussion ensued
         1. Commissioners expressed “no concern” about remote model and Charlie joining meetings by Zoom
            1. Charlie will join meetings in person when he is in Grafton
         2. Good - strategic - to have 2nd homeowner represented
         3. Gratitude for someone willing to take on “time-consuming” Administrative responsibility
         4. Desirable to have “legal” point of view on Commission
         5. Commissioners expressed support for Charlie’s involvement in both drinking water and wastewater surveys, in addition to his participation in SB and other Town meetings
      4. Suz asked for MOTION to approve “Shared Leadership” model and Charlie’s nomination. Next step is to request Select Board approval on April 5. Motion also included recommendation to SB for: Paul Hallock, 1-yr term; Stan Mack, ex officio member; Suzanne Welch, resignation effective May 2021

Motion: Chris

Second: Matt

Vote: Unanimous to Approve

* + 1. Suz acknowledged Mark’s excellent work preparing “Wastewater Survey Summary” report – to be discussed at April meeting

1. OTHER BUSINESS
   1. April *The Grafton News* article - Chris
   2. Chris/Meg will begin working on Community Education using Summary Report as source
   3. Matt/Paul/Mark will begin work on engineering study, getting in touch with Lynette Claudon, DEC, re Advance Planning Grant
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None
3. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:30-7:30PM
4. ADJOURN
   1. Motion: Chris
   2. Second: Paul
   3. Vote: Unanimous
   4. TIME: 7:26PM