

Grafton Planning Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 PM

Grafton Town Hall 2nd Floor

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81340393010?pwd=TDk5Y3FDaUNYNVBHNmRRVGNwbWRiZz09>

Planning Committee: Matt Siano, Eric Stevens, Ron Pilette, Buzz Fisher, Les Schwalb

Public in Attendance: Cathy Siano-Goodwin

MINUTES

- **Call to order** 7:07
- **June Agenda Approved**
- **Approval of the April 2024 minutes**
- **Wastewater update.** The wastewater committee met and found two other parcels that belong to the Windham Foundation, just past Grafton Ponds. The State gave us 30 days. Morgan put together all the paper work to show them where we were and to ask for 90 days instead because we need that to evaluate these parcels. Also, it was asked if we could we have some of this grant money to redo our septic system if we put 5 houses on a cluster system. T&B is still required to do the 90% report to the Town. But they are back to square one. Q: What is required for Grafton to do in the 90-day stay? A: We're hoping that the land will be evaluated, will be viable, and then we would still have 2 years to wrap up the [planning/design/town approval] There is additional complexity of cluster system: if one home of the 5 on the cluster system has a generator, how do they work that out? We understand that the cluster system is for 5 homes? Could the \$4 million grant pay for those cluster systems in town? A: possible solution to the water situation would be to check water once per year. People should be educated to not put bleach down waste pipes into their septic systems because it kills the organisms.

If the wastewater comes to a dead end, we will need to update the septic pumping rules and will need to work on the AirBnb rules and to make sure that all residents including AirBnb guests know not to put anything in the toilet except waste. We need to make sure people know what not to put down the drain.

That would definitely need to put into town plan

We should continue to look into waste and potable water solutions. Also must be careful to make sure that whatever is taken out of the septic system and put back into the earth does not have PFAS.

We should have an education piece, perhaps put in the paper once or twice a year: instructions about what not to put into your septic system. Matt said that there has been info passed out with instructions about keeping chemicals out of the household drains.

Ron: We should focus on Wastewater in our upcoming Town Plan. We should create a usable chapter on everything that has been reviewed together here over the last two years.

Lester: if for no other reason than going forward, the Town hopefully doesn't have to start from the beginning and they don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Charles Bonim is now getting water filtration system from the state.

- **Survey questions** for residents to prepare for new town plan. How does Grafton exist in the future? Do you see it being this way or that way (2 polar alternatives). Another question: with the changes of CEO of Windham, what is their plan for the future? Matt created a question for the Grafton News for July. What do you see as the demographics? If it is trending older, then will there be a school? Discussion of the school. Is it possible that people would come to a meeting to start percolating ideas about the future?
- **Town Plan.** What will the state want from us? Windham Regional had a planner's roundtable and a flood recovery symposium, but Matt could not attend either. Let us keep our eyes out for those kinds of meetings. Maybe Windham Regional Commission person could come here to inform us. Find what you want them to do before you invite them. Hazard mitigation plan meeting is coming up; the consultant guides you through the process, which has a lot of FEMA requirements. Possible opportunity to put some of the broader aspects of hazard/emergency management into the plan that FEMA doesn't require.
- **New Business.** Hazard mitigation. We do well with Emergency operations in the first 48 hours; but other aspects we should improve. We need to improve our financial management of what is spent so that this reporting corresponds to FEMA accounting methods and we also need to address the social/psychological aspects of emergency. There will be great anxiety among townspeople if their shelter, electricity, transportation are affected. We should set up some kind of place for communications where people can send out a message or get message out.
- **Old Business:** invite to zoom, a person to contact re: water purification. A person in Texas who was suggested by Hannah.
- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 16th at 7pm.