

Minutes of Lost Lake Sewer Committee
January 15, 2009

Present: Tom Doyle, Carol Quinn, Angela Garger, Bob Rafferty, Rosemary Blacquier, and Tom Orcutt

Old Business

*Tom and Carol met with the Town Manager and he is supportive of the current planning process. He recognized that we need to have funding to go to the next step of the project.

*Bob Rafferty said that they already have a standing contract with the town, but there are no funds available. It is a joint contract with the town and the sewer district.

*Bob explained that phase 1 of the project is complete, but funding will now need to be identified to move on to the next phase.

New Business

*Bob and Rosemary went on to further explain the process:

Phase 1 – identifying issues – where are the failing systems

Phase 2 – refines and looks at solutions and feasibility

Phase 3 – a draft plan and environmental impact report are developed. This phase looks at environmental impacts. What are the impacts of the “solutions” on wetland areas, conservation areas, etc. You don’t want to recommend a plan that will hurt the environment.

Phase 4 – a final plan and Environmental Impact Report are developed

*Rosemary suggested that rural development funds might be accessible. However, Groton, (as a whole), is over the state median income to qualify for these funds. She suggested that an income survey could be done to see if the lake area would be able to qualify for any of these funds. Apparently an income survey can be done for just the Lost Lake area to see if we could qualify for rural development funds from the state. The town would be responsible for paying for any hard costs of the survey (postage, mailings, and questionnaires). Rosemary estimated the cost to be \$18,000 and that it would take 4 – 6 months to do the survey. RCAP Solutions would be the organization that could conduct the income survey.

*Every time a report is completed it must be filed with various agencies and there is a 30 day comment period. This would be the time frame that the public would have to comment on the report as well.

*Deadline for applying for SRF funds is August 31, 2009. These applications are very competitive so they have to be done thoroughly and carefully.

*Town Meeting:

-The warrant for town meeting is currently open but it will close at the end of February. We will need to ask for 400,000 at town meeting for phase 2, 3 and 4 of the project.

-Comprehensive public outreach and education is very critical. The more people you can get involved in your project from the beginning the better in order to

build a consensus. Then you will have support when you go to town meeting for approval

-A second article on town meeting will be needed to approve the funds for the income survey.

*There was a brief discussion about the feasibility of running town water and gas lines to Lost Lake Area. It seems feasible and makes sense to do it while the road already under construction.

*Time line – if we started in January 2010 there will be 3 more years of planning so realistically a shovel won't go into the ground for 4 years from now, (January 15, 2009).

Action Items

1. Jean will continue to try and reach Lucy Wallace in Harvard. On going.
2. Carol will contact the Merrimack watershed to see what information they might have regarding sewer systems on lakes. Specifically what regulations might exist with regards to lakes and whether any grants would be available for initiatives in the Merrimack watershed? On going.
3. Angela will try to contact the Great Pond Management Advisory Committee to find out about funding sources. On going.
4. Tom will distribute regulatory process flowchart and define acronyms.
5. Prepare for Town Meeting in April. On going.

