

**Lost Lake Sewer Committee Minutes**  
**February 6, 2014**

Present: Dr. Horowitz, Board of Health; Thomas D. Orcutt, Water/Sewer Superintendent; John G. Petropoulos, Selectman; Jay Prager, Finance Committee, Michael Rosa, At Large

Meeting was called to order at 6:30

Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2014 were reviewed. Minor changes were made. Mr. Rosa motioned to approve the minutes of January 23, 2014 pending changes made in response to today's review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prager and approved unanimously. Mr. Orcutt was absent for this vote and arrived shortly after it was taken.

The Committee reviewed Mr. Prager's 2 page summary of the Committee's current position. Mr. Petropoulos noted some edits. Most were agreed and Mr. Prager stated that he would wordsmith them. D. Horowitz stated that she came on this committee believing a sewer would solve an environmental problem but has changed her mind as far as realizing this is a 'multi-fix' solution and without addressing runoff and zoning issues adding a sewer would be the only solution.

Mr. Orcutt objected to the assertion that the Committee was unanimous in its agreement that a sewer was not indicated at this time. He wanted to be on the record as believing that there was sufficient evidence to move forward with a sewer. Mr. Petropoulos noted that as a member of the group Mr. Orcutt's opinion and especially his objection, were important and asked if there were details that Mr. Orcutt would like to provide. Mr. Orcutt stated (Tom I just do not recall what you said. Please provide the content here). Mr. Prager will adjust the document.

Mr. Petropoulos asked if the Committee would like to provide the written statement to the BOS and to provide a brief presentation of the salient issues. The Committee agreed. Mr. Prager was to complete the statement and Mr. Petropoulos was to provide a draft presentation for members to review. Mr. Petropoulos indicated that he would ask the BOS to put the Committee on its schedule for a future meeting.

There was some discussion about what the Committee should focus on including items like storm water management. Mr. Petropoulos cautioned that the Committee had just gone through a lengthy process of demonstrating that developing a solution before the defining a problem resulted in ineffective policy. He suggested that the Committee be careful that it did not fall into that trap again. Mr. Rosa suggested that the Committee should focus on near term items such as education, disposal of pharmaceuticals and perhaps some aspects of storm water management.

Mr. Petropoulos reviewed his experience at the MMA conference. He described going to a number of engineering vendors to ask if they would be willing to meet with the Committee to provide their thoughts on how the Committee should proceed, as a way of allowing the Committee to gather a range of information and perspectives prior to determining how to move

forward. Mr. Petropoulos related that all of the engineering firms indicated that they would be willing to come in and to meet with the Committee at no charge to give a general overview of their thought on how the town should proceed. He also described a conversation that he had with Ken Wagner who was a key contributor to the 1989 study and was also hired as a consultant to the CEI study. Mr. Wagner also agreed to come in to discuss how he thought the town should proceed. Mr. Wagner made it clear that he would not discuss the CEI study as there were outstanding issues between he and CEI that are not yet resolved. Mr. Wagner also cautioned Mr. Petropoulos on the idea of having large engineering firms come in. He used the “to a hammer everything looks like a nail” adage. He noted that smaller is better in the advisory stage, and noted the conflict of interest that having a firm that has a specialty of building sewers would present in advising the town on how to move forward. Mr. Petropoulos also noted that Mr. Wagner wanted to avoid discussing the CEI report with the Committee.

The subject of pest control and lawn maintenance came up as a possible area for the Committee to focus on providing guidance to the town. The fact that local private schools apply significant amounts of fertilizer and chemicals to their lawns was reviewed. The suggestion that perhaps the local schools could contribute to the costs of remedying a problem that their fertilizers had, in part created, was discussed.

Members indicated that they could be available to meet with the BOS on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Mondays of the month.

The Committee agreed that it wanted to discuss the reasons that Mr. Wagner was not willing to discuss the CEI report even though his input was a specific line item in the SOW provided by CEI.

Mr. Petropoulos reviewed the Town Manager’s decision on how to compensate CEI for the disputed items. The full bill would not be paid in any amount exceeding the originally approved figure. From that figure would be deducted \$5073 to account for failure to deliver useful phosphate results and for not having delivered the contracted number of meeting. It was agreed that the Committee may want to meet with CEI in the future and that CEI would be due compensation for any future meetings. Mr. Rosa moved to: “Authorize the Town Manager to pay CEI the contracted amount less \$5073.” Mr. Prager seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2014 at 6:30.

### **Action Items**

Mr. Prager to update the summary

Mr. Petropoulos to draft a presentation