

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
June 22, 2004

The Clean Waters Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2004 in the meeting room of the Inlet Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

Members Present:

Tom Prevost, Chairman
Mick Lehman, Bernier, Carr and Associate
Matt Cooper, Bernier, Carr and Associate
Ken Nelson
Dayt Cleaveland
Paul Chambers
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Bill Faro
John Frey
JR Risley

Tom Prevost stated that he has not received enough interest in having someone representing Hamilton County Soil and Water do a presentation on septic systems, and asked that anyone interested please contact him.

Dayt Cleaveland asked if the committee still planned to go door to door talking to those downtown property owners who might be affected by the formation of a water and/or sewer district. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to get input from the people involved. Ken Nelson also agreed suggesting that if talking to these people reveals that none of them are interested in any kind of system and it is proven that no one is currently polluting, then maybe the issue should not be pursued. After some more discussion it was again agreed that this committee should talk with the property owners in the downtown area.

The group talked about the need for more testing. Ken Nelson shared information from the Fulton Chain of Lake Association that stated the water in the chain is great. It was asked where the testing was done. The report stated from Old Forge Pond to Inlet. There was then some discussion on how often the tests were taken, exact locations of the testing, and time of year the testing was done, which no one knew for sure. All agreed that the more information, the better, and that this committee would continue to collect as much as they could.

At this time Mick Lehman presented three proposals for this committee to consider for the downtown area. The first proposal would be a public water system from The Woods

Inn to Fifth Lake and from St. Anthony's to the Arrowhead Trading Post. He pointed out that through a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund up to \$2 million could be available to towns who can prove a need for public water, a need being only one property who's water does not pass NYS requirements. He stated that having a public water system in place may decrease the need for a public sewer system on some downtown properties, and properties who are at risk of loosing their DOH waivers would not need to go to a chlorinating system.

The second proposal goes along with the first, selecting three sections within the suggested water district that would still need public sewer. Because these sections are small enough, they could be set up with subsurface disposal systems. It was then explained that there would have to be two separate votes; one for all of the properties within the water district, and a separate one for those within the sewer districts. Some people would be in both districts, and therefore would get to vote on both proposals; the rest would be only in the water district and therefore only vote on the water proposal.

The third idea Mick presented was to take the entire downtown area and do both water and sewer for all. He stated that because of the size of this district, chances of having a subsurface disposal system would be less likely. But, because the sewer and water would be all in one district, this would be just one vote for everyone within the district.

During the presentation there was a discussion on including the public school and the possibility of more funding if the school were to address water as a capital project.

It was asked if properties with newly drilled wells could opt not to hook onto the public water system. It was pointed out that because the system would come up to their property and they could utilize it, they would have to pay an annual district fee, but because they are not using the water they would not be paying the monthly usage fee. A water meter would probably determine this usage.

John Frey also asked the committee to keep in mind the potential of downtown buildings. What is a gift shop now might be able to become something different in the future if public water and/or sewer are available.

JR Risley suggested that this committee go on location to different treatment facilities with the engineers. He also mentioned that Ron Miller is currently working on updating the Town of Inlet's Sewer Ordinance to conform to New York State regulations.

Ken Nelson asked the committee to consider whether Tyler Road should be addressed before the downtown area. He asked if an area were found to be polluting, would this be more serious than an area that is nonconforming?

After more discussion on what would be best for the future of Inlet, it was decided that the engineers would research these three proposals further and determine which, if any, would be feasible for Inlet, with approximate costs.

JR Risley thanked the engineers and the committee for all of their time and hard work on this ongoing project.

Public Comment – No public present at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall. Because of possible conflicts in schedules, this meeting may be moved to Tuesday, August 3. A notice will be sent out with the decided date. The committee will also be considering a weekend meeting to get more people involved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett