

Town of Inlet  
Clean Waters Committee  
November 25, 2003

Present:

Tom Prevost, Acting Chair  
Matt Cooper, Bernier, Carr and Associates  
Chip Sauer, Inlet Business Owner  
John Frey, Inlet Councilman  
Mick Lehman, Bernier, Carr and Associates  
Vince Cavanaugh, DEC  
Garry Gunther, DEC  
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Meeting came to order at 10:30 AM. It was pointed out that the one of the reasons the Proposed Wastewater District did not pass, was that there may not have been a good understanding between the Wastewater Committee, the engineers, the Town Board, the Public and anyone else involved. Another possible reason for failure was suggested that those who felt they did not need the system, did not have enough information to understand why or how it might benefit them. It was then stated that the intentions of this new committee would be to make sure there was plenty of communication and information available for anyone interested.

It was mentioned that many of the property owners around Sixth and Seventh Lakes were retired and live somewhere in the winter where they most likely have public water and/or sewer. These residents have been very supportive of the idea of Inlet having a public wastewater system.

The group discussed other ideas on why the proposal failed. Some mentioned the fear of property values going up. This was also argued that some may consider this a benefit. It was mentioned again that some property owners who currently did not have problems with their water or sewer, did not see why they should have to pay for this.

The engineers present were asked how often they would be attending this committee's meetings. They stated that they would do their best to attend any meeting that this committee wished for them to attend.

Mr. Prevost went over with this group what he would like to see be the focus of the first scheduled meeting of 2004. He suggested that this committee recap how the Town has gotten to the point of where they are now. He asked the group to consider three questions: 1 – Does Inlet need a wastewater treatment system? 2 – What will be the cost of this system? 3 – What will be the environmental impact on the Inlet area if there is a system, and if there is not a system?

The group talked about the concerns with the wastewater system in Lake Placid and the problems they have had with overflow into AuSable River, and how they are attempting to fix this with a new system.

There was discussion on the potential size of any system. The group talked about suggesting a smaller system. It was pointed out that the committee should consider what would happen if it needed to be expanded. Would the area or land be able to handle expansion? Some other questions asked by this group included: Could the town be divided into sub areas? What would be the cost per household for smaller systems? Are there grant available for this? The committee will be looking at these questions and more.

It was suggested that a small system be considered first, leaving room for expansion. Be sure the site can expand, but do not overbuild. Look at alternative locations for reintroduction for the system; land, water, golf course, etc.

Again, it was suggested that the committee be sure to research deeply into the cost, size and location of any proposed system. It was stressed that this committee should have regular meetings that will be posted. These meetings will be open for public comment at the end of each meeting. And this committee will try to address every concern brought in front of them. Mr. Prevost stated that if necessary he would visit people at home to be sure their concerns are addressed.

There was discussion on setting up a website that would be available for anyone to read minutes from the committee meetings, and any special announcements and/or progress reports. Adele stated that she could set up a website similar to the one done for the Town Comprehensive Plan. This would be a free Geocities website. She also stated that the Town is currently looking into making this kind of information available on the inletny.com website.

The group discussed contacting local banks to see if information could be obtained from them on whether or not a public system would make a difference on property purchases.

One suggested system included a gray water treatment system with an air treatment to control odors. This system would require an outside contractor that would be hired for district-scheduled pumping. There was also discussion involving forming a sewage district outside of a wastewater district. This would also need an outside contractor for pumping.

It was suggested that the committee put together a Glossary of Terms to help everyone understand what was being discussed.

The group agreed to set the Clean Water Committee Meetings for the Fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM. These meetings will be held in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall. It was agreed that the Clean Water Program was a more environmentally friendly term.

It was suggested to invite Roger Lind to become involved in this new committee.

Mr. Prevost mentioned again that this meeting was set in order to be better prepared for the first official meeting of the new committee which is now set for Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at 1:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall.

The meeting ended at 12:30 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett