

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
July 26, 2005

A regular meeting of the Clean Waters Committee was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 in the senior room of the Inlet Town Hall at 6:30 PM.

Present:

Dayt Cleaveland, Co-chair
John Frey, Co-chair
Gary Zawatski, Inlet Property Owner
Paul Chambers, Inlet Property Owner
Richard Myrick, Inlet Property Owner
David Beck, Inlet Property Owner
J. R. Risley, Inlet Supervisor
Bill Faro, Inlet Councilman
Adele Burnett, Administrative Assistant

John Frey thanked everyone for attending. He reported that the interns were doing well with collected data from tests. He also stated that he did not believe the letter sent around by one property owner had any negative affect on the progress of their work. It was even suggested that some property owners are now being more cooperative since the public meeting that was held at the Inlet Emergency Services Building. John stated that the next meeting would include a report from Trevor Tormey. Adele stated that she had spoken with Trevor, who will be able to attend the meeting on August 23 as long as he does not have soccer. If he needs to leave early, a notice will go out for this committee to meet sooner.

Gary Zawatski stated that it would have been nice to have an analytical report done at the same time the interns were taking water samples done. It was reminded to the committee that because of limited funds, the State was doing most of the testing for free and therefore we were limited to what they are able to provide for us.

J. R. stated that the grant money that the Town received would allow for conductivity testing to continue after the interns go back to school. Town employees will do this testing. It was asked if any testing has been done between Fifth and Sixth Lakes. J. R. stated that none had been done yet, but that this could be added to the current process.

The committee talked about the second part of the grant money, which will be used for test drilling. It was again pointed out that no drilling would be done before results of the data collection has been processed and reviewed by this committee and the Town Board. J. R. reminded the group that if the Town were to put in public water, they would need two locations for water sources, one to be used as a backup. He also stated that the locations for these test drills have yet to be determined. The group then went on to

discuss different possible systems that could be used for a public water source. It was pointed out that even with public water, there would still be properties with problems without a public sewer system.

The group was reminded that everyone involved is still looking for all different ways to fix any problem that may exist. It was restated that the engineers and the Clean Waters Committee are working together to first identify the problem areas, and then come up with reasonable, economical solutions. John Frey referred to the district vote that was turned down and stated that the first time this group started by picking a process and tried to build around that. This time the group is gathering more information, and looking into more options before picking a process.

J. R. reported that he had recently attended a conference put on by the EFC, where he learned more about systems in other towns, how they were able to put them in, and how they maintained them. He had charts that showed Inlet's numbers per capita so high compared to other towns, that finding funding would prove to be extremely difficult.

Since it was agreed that this process would take a long time, it was suggested that this committee continue to look into possible public systems, and at the same time look for ways that the town can help individuals in need. It was suggested to look into options where the Town might be able to help individuals acquire loans if needed to put in new systems. Also to be bale to offer them guidance, and suggest available services that will help them.

The group talked about some concern that the State might come in eventually and mandate the Town to put in a system when we are not ready, no matter what the cost. They talked about the fact that camps in the area that were once only used in the summer, are now being used longer in the season and by more people. These camps also now have more modern appliances that use more water: dishwashers, washing machines, etc. Many people who own summer camps here have public water and/or sewer at home, and have never had to worry about overburdening a system. It was also discussed that some of the downtown businesses are still for sale because potential owners look away after seeing the current sewer and water conditions, and lack of ability to change or grow.

J. R. stated that Ron Miller, the Inlet Codes Officer, is working on updating the Town of Inlet Sewer Ordinance. Ron has suggested that when a property is sold would be a good time to dig up the existing sewer system and have it inspected. This led to some discussion on updating the ordinance. It was suggested that this committee take on the project of updating and rewriting the sewer ordinance with the assistance of Ron Miller and members of the Inlet Planning Board. All present agreed this would be a good idea, and that the idea should be brought to the Planning Board.

There was some talk about Arrowhead Park being a potential site for a leech field if a cluster system were to be put in. Dave Beck suggested that the Town do a future needs

assessment before making any decisions on where a system would be located. There was also discussion about if a system is put in on Town property, how does it become fair to the taxpayers who can't use the system because they are not within the district. It was explained that if a district is formed, the property then becomes owned only by those within the district, as they will be the only ones paying for it.

John thanked everyone for attending, and stated that it was nice to have new faces at the meeting. Hopefully this will continue for meetings to come. All agreed that the best thing for this committee to do is to keep working on this project and to continue to educate the people and help them understand that this is not a personal problem but a community problem.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall.

With nothing else to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Adele M. Burnett