

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
October 26, 2004

The Clean Waters Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 26, 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
Dayton Cleaveland
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation
Pete Klein, Hamilton County News
Gary Zawatski

Tom Prevost took a moment to thank Pete Klein for his articles in the Hamilton County News about this committee's meetings. These articles have been a tool for keeping the public informed of what this group has accomplished, and what they have yet to do.

The group again reviewed the three drafts prepared by Bernier & Carr. Dayt Cleaveland asked of Matt & Mick if the 10% contingency added in the drafts would be sufficient, discussion followed. The discussion also included topics on when testing would be started, if there would be data showing estimates vs. final numbers and potential risk areas. It was noted again that some of the downtown businesses that do not need public septic, might benefit from public water. It was pointed out that according to estimated numbers, even with 75% funding, the proposed downtown sewer district would exceed the State Comptroller's Office limit per EDU.

The group discussed ways to build community support for this project. It was suggested to go door-to-door with an informal pole to get feedback from those who would be inside the district. If the majority of responses from this pole came back negative, this would suggest that this committee should reconsider moving forward with this project. It was noted that the questioning should be done when the seasonal residents are also available. It was reminded that there are many unanswered questions from the proposal that was voted down. After some more discussion it was agreed that more public input is needed for this project to move forward. Mick Lehman stated that if the engineers would be willing to meet with the people, possibly set up a public forum, to answer questions.

Tom announced that he had received notice from Betty Little that the grant application he had sent in had been approved. Tom stated that he would be working on the following: collecting surveys from local well drillers, getting assistance from Steve Winkley, acquiring data and assistance from Hamilton County Soil & Water, and getting quotes from firms, and that if needed, hopefully some of the grant money could be used for these. Tom stated that it would be up to the Town to decide where the grant money is spent. It was also pointed out that once all this information is collected, it would then become public knowledge. There was a brief discussion on water testing and when is the right time of year to perform tests.

The group again discussed getting more public input on this project. Dayt Cleaveland volunteered to knock on people's doors with a survey. It was suggested that if any questions are being asked, everyone should be asking the same questions.

Tom stated that he had spoken with Scott Muller of Rural Community Assistance Programs who would be able to help with income surveys, public informational meetings, and how to go about these.

Mick Lehman again stated that the engineers could have all of their data, maps & reports available for a public informational meeting. He also suggested that the boundaries for any proposed districts could be changed before they were put up for vote.

There was some discussion on metering public water.

It was suggested that this board meet with the Town Board to discuss the spending of the grant monies and the status of this committee. Tom would arrange this and get back to this committee.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett