

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
November 2, 2004

A special meeting of the Clean Waters Committee was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 in the meeting room of the Inlet Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

Members Present:

Tom Prevost, Chairman
Dayton Cleaveland
John Frey
Brandon DiMartino
Chip Sauer
Ken Nelson
Paul Chambers
Joe Spilka
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

J.R. Risley, Town Supervisor
Herb Schmid, Town Councilman
Bill Faro, Town Councilman

Tom handed out a status report for everyone's review dated November 2, 2004. As he went through the items on the report, he stated that he had not received any letters from the Department of Health yet. He said that he believes there are seven wells in the downtown area that are currently hold DOH waivers. He believes high coliform levels may have been reported at these locations. He has asked the DOH for a letter in reference to this, and the response from the DOH is that they do not want to get involved in the politics of the matter. He also stated that most of the properties along Fifth Lake Channel do not meet well/septic setbacks, and many do not have the room on their property to correct this. He stated that if these properties had public water, then there might not be a concern with the locations of their septic.

The group was reminded of the three proposals put together by Bernier & Carr. It was suggested that the proposed cluster systems would not work if the proposed water system were not also installed.

While listing the resources at hand, Tom reported that the Town would be receiving \$28,000 towards the studies to be done for this project. Other resources included continued monitoring of lakes for nitrates, phosphates, etc. and limited conductivity testing being done by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, limited conductivity testing being done by the Sixth and Seventh Lake Association, the DOH can supply test results from commercial wells, and will do coliform testing if we

supply samples, NYS Rural Waters will do dye testing and hydrogeology testing, RCAP has offered assistance with surveys, funding & engineering firms, and Kim Farrell, Public Management and Finance of Maxwell School Syracuse University, has agreed to meet with this committee and offer free advice.

The group discussed where this committee should go from here. Some ideas that were discussed included 1. The need for getting more stakeholders involved in this project. Stakeholders were listed as the DOH, DEC, downtown residents, funding sources, codes enforcer & RCAP, to name a few. 2. More environmental studies, and the ability to pull all this information together. 3. A survey that would show the ideas and concerns of the community. 4. Funding for these projects keeps going down. Where will it be in two years? 5. A comprehensive plan that would point out critical areas and what the town would like to see for the future.

The group discussed funding for this project at length. It was stated that the money from the grant will be a great help towards studies to determine if & where there is a problem. John Frey expressed concern that high dollar values might be a hard sell to the public. The need to research more grant funding is critical, and this committee along with the Town should keep in contact with Betty Little and Hilary Clinton and any other political figure that might be able to help with funding. It was suggested to find someone who specializes in funding to help with this.

Joe Spilka mentioned that many property owners who are trying to sell are usually very willing to install better systems if it will help make a sale. It was also mentioned that most people these days are generally environmentally minded, but in the same sense, if they are not aware there is a problem, they might not want to find out.

The group continued to discuss the next steps that should be taken. It was suggested that the next step should be to meet with Kim Farrell, and listen to her suggestions. It was agreed that this group should get outside help to determine the appropriate testing that needs to be done and where. Should the testing be limited to the downtown area?

The group continued to discuss the proposed district, and the possibilities of expanding the service area. Would this help or hinder the project? It was suggested that there may be some concerns with locating the leach field at Arrowhead Park, and that there may be concerns with the cost of the proposed systems.

It was agreed that Kim Farrell should be invited to the next meeting and that more stakeholders should also be encouraged to attend. With nothing further to discuss at this time the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett