

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
August 3, 2004

The Clean Waters Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 3, 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
John Frey
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Pete Klein, Hamilton County News
Dave Beck
Bill Landmesser
David Kelsey

Chairman Prevost handed committee members a copy of a letter addressed to Gary Gunther stating the mission of this committee. He asked members to read this statement, and if they had any comments or concerns to please contact him or bring them to the next meeting.

Chairman Prevost reminded the committee that there would be representatives from the New York State Rural Waters Association at the August 24th meeting, and encouraged this committee to spread the word and invite all to attend. These speakers will offer how they may assist us in determining short and long term needs for wastewater treatment and public water as well as long term assistance at managing these. Their organization also offers onsite training, formal training, and onsite emergency services. Mr. Prevost also stated that on September 11th there would be a guest speaker from the Canandaigua Watershed Commission who will make a presentation that will include discussion about their watershed commission, policies, and the various alternatives that are open to communities such as Inlet that are mostly shoreline residences. He will discuss the newer types of private onsite treatment techniques with actual case studies. He is an excellent speaker with many years experience dealing with "difficult" lakeside parcels.

At this time Mr. Prevost turned the floor over to Mick Lehman and Matt Cooper of Bernier, Carr and Associates. Mick stated that they had walked the area, had consulted with hydro geologist Jay Billings and had done field tests at Arrowhead Park, at the lot adjacent to the Woods Inn and at Fern Park. All of this was done to help determine the

feasibility of Inlet putting in a water and/or sewer system to service the downtown area. JR Risley was also available during their walk through and his knowledge of wells in the area was helpful. Mick stated that he would be receiving a report from Jay Billings to share with this committee. At this time both options being considered appear to be viable. These options being one public sewer system to service the area or a public water system along with smaller "cluster" sewer systems. Mick stated that there appears to be a good number of over burdened wells in the area that have good yield and also adequate bed rock wells available.

Mick suggested while the committee considers public water, they find out if the Town would want fire protection included. He stated that this would increase the cost of the system. It was mentioned that having public fire protection might decrease individual's insurance, but only those being serviced by the water system would benefit.

Matt explained that the numbers he got back from the perk tests done in the area looked could, but he also mentioned that this may not have been the best time of year to take the tests, and that more tests should be done. It was noted that all three areas tested would be large enough for the suggested areas, but that more than just one area should be considered, as eventually a leach field may fail. It was then pointed out that if public water is not installed, then only two of the areas should be considered for leach fields as one, Arrowhead Park, would be too tight.

At this time Mick briefly explained to the public present the options that this committee has been considering and have asked them, the engineers, to research to see if feasible. He explained that no matter what size system the Town decides to put in, the grant need will be similar. He also mentioned again that if a need were identified, this would increase chances for grant money. He stated that when considering sites for water systems, the town needs to have some kind of ownership and/or control around the system, and that it is typically less expensive to treat ground water than surface water.

John Frey asked if there was anything new in the systems and/or technologies of sewer systems, anything relevant to what this town is considering. Mick stated that there was nothing relevant yet, but that he would look out for anything that might be useful or that might increase funding. John also suggested that this committee not consider any systems that discharged into any body of water. All present agreed that this was one of the reasons why the first proposition failed, and that this committee to focus on subsurface discharge. It was also agreed that this committee would like to see many different options and that these options would be shared with the public.

It was suggested that this committee meet with the Inlet Planning Board to get their input. It was also noted that the Inlet Comprehensive Master Plan made mention of the need for a public wastewater system.

Public Comment – Dave Beck asked the committee when considering town land for leach fields, to please keep in mind the future potential of the properties, and that a future needs study be considered for the area. He stated that he liked the idea of a system going in at the landfill because of its current use, but understands that this would be costly to service just the downtown area. He also suggested that the town consider purchasing new property if possible rather than using the existing parks for sewer.

David Kelsey asked if this committee was considering extending this system to the Seventh Lake area. He explained that he owns property there and is currently looking to upgrade his system but has run into problems because of his lot size. It was explained that it would not be feasible to connect homes on Seventh Lake and in the downtown area to the same system, but that the homes on Seventh Lake could connect to their own cluster system.

During these discussions, Tom Prevost stated that he did not predict the town needing to expand a system put in for the downtown area within the next 20-30 years, but this does not mean that a similar system might not be needed in another area that has been labeled as having problems. It was also again explained that the Town currently recognizes three “problem” areas; a small group of homes near Eagle Bay, the downtown area, and an area on the Seventh Lake Road, and that the downtown area has been the area that has expressed more interest and need for some kind of immediate system. It was also stated that the shops and services of the downtown area keep the visitors coming, and if this area were shut down, it could have a tremendous impact on the future of Inlet. David Kelsey pointed out that if the properties on Seventh Lake are shut down, this also could have an impact on the future taxes of Inlet.

Bill Landmesser stated that testing had been done by the Sixth and Seventh Lake Association, and that they will continue to do testing to ensure the quality of the waters. He stated that all recent tests had good results. John Frey stated that the Town was also doing testing on Fourth Lake and in the channel between Fourth and Fifth. All data is submitted to the county, and will become part of this committee’s files.

There was more discussion on using the baseball field at Arrowhead Park for a leach field. Dave Beck again expressed concern for the future of the park. It was explained that if the baseball field were to be used, everything would be below ground leaving nothing exposed. The only visible evidence would be the thick green grass. John Frey stated that it would be his hope that the baseball field would always be used as a baseball field, and that a leach field under it should not be a problem.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall. Steve Grimm and Rich Winter from the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) will be attending this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett