

North Yarmouth Economic Development and Sustainability Committee (EDSC)
Sept 9, 2015, 6:30pm Town Office Meeting Room

Attendees: A. Horstman (Co-chair), K. Murphy (Co-chair) M. Ahlberg, A. Graham, M. Girard, S. Morrison, P. Gilligan, S. Lee, C. Ellison (Secretary)

Audience: Steve Palmer (Selectboard), Keith Thompson, Dixie Hayes, Jeanne Chadborne (Selectboard), Rosemary Roy (Town Manager)

1. Minutes from August 19th meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. The BOS survey was on time and under budget. There were 5 main findings. The hydraulic capacity for the site is 45k gal/day, which is higher than the original estimate but not likely something we will plan on utilizing for that system. The current capacity is 7k gal/day, which allows for some room for development before additional space is needed. Expanding the capacity of that site will not have an adverse effect on the ground water in the area, which was a requirement before the project could move forward, this statement says we have passed that hurdle. Should be developed in stages to limit costs. They reiterate that maintenance is required, but we have ideal soil configuration for this type of system. These findings essentially confirm the original assessment. There will be a presentation of this report to the public on these findings. For Fun Day we will make a handout of the executive summary to hand out to the public.

There seems to be some incorrect assumption from the public that the public septic option would mean starting a huge sewer department and sewer treatment facility etc, we need to be careful to inform the public with correct information. We need to remember the purpose of the project instead of arguing inaccurate or small points we need to communicate the whole idea accurately and succinctly. We need to figure out how to communicate best to the people we may talk to on Fun Day

3. Rosemary came to talk to us about Freedom of Access Act in the State of Maine. In general it covers what needs to be available to the public and creates a balance between public knowledge and confidentiality. In relation to our committee, generally you shouldn't make decisions through email communications as 'decision documents' would become public information.
4. In discussing how to communicate with the public it was mentioned many times that we will likely be disarming misinformation at Fun Day, and directing people to the website, the plan, the selectmen or saying 'I don't know' are legitimate answers. The 'opposition' who is strongly opposed to a sewer based on inaccurate information has a touchstone that they gather around, what is our touchstone.

Fun Day assignments. The day starts at about 10am, ends at around 3pm. There is a bean supper from about 5pm-6:30pm.

Matt has made sketches and is working on verbiage to go with it, will print and have a large poster made for Fun Day.

Patrick and Audrey will arrange the FAQ sheet.

Katie and Mark will arrange the exec summary of Hydro Report to have on hand.

Mark will have the original presentation of the plan by the Board of Selectmen.

Katie will bring clip boards for the question sheet.

Easels are being borrowed from the Town Office

On the day of the following people will be manning the booth.

10-11:30 Audrey and Annie

11:30-1 Carol and Katie

1-2:30 Amy and Susanne/Katie

5. The video will be filmed during Fun Day and around town on Saturday the 12th hitting many key locations in NY, narration will be added later.
6. We need to hold a Public Information Meeting chaired by EDSC. We decided on Oct 21st. We moved our next committee meeting to Oct 7th from Oct 14th.