

Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2009

Members Present:

Bruce Bond
Bill Corr
Randy Eifert
John Hodsdon
Michelle Therrien
Pru Tylenda
Bob Vogler

Staff Present:

John Edgar

Visitors:

Kay Anderson, WSOA Director
Duncan McNeish, WSOA Director

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes of the May 20, 2009 WWAC meeting
- Discussion of WSOA letter dated 5/20/09 from Bob Wenstrup to the Meredith Selectmen. The Meredith selectmen have charged the WWAC to review the issues in Mr. Wenstrup's letter and comment back to them. We need to internally discuss the issues presented in Mr. Wenstrup's letter before we are in a position to discuss with representatives of the WSOA and possibly other interested parties.
- Continued discussion on the draft health ordinance
- Status – Through trucking of hazmat materials on Winona/Waukewan Roads, Spear property purchase for Conservation, KV Partners final report.
- Other business

Having a quorum, Chairman Bruce Bond called the meeting to order @ 8:10 am.

The **5/20/09 WWAC meeting minutes were approved** as had been twice updated.

John Edgar provided an update on the Septic System Health Ordinance:

- John described the Asset Management concept that is being used for all topics (fire, storms, electric outages, etc.) that may have dire consequences to a town. The town planning evaluates these events and the consequences they may cause. Then the planning includes what actions could be taken to minimize or circumvent these dire consequences. Clearly the protection of the Meredith drinking water is a topic for Asset Management analysis.
- Meredith is working on the Health Ordinance re: septic systems using the Asset Management concept. John reported the plan is to draft this Health Ordinance, ask the WWAC to review and comment on it and when ready present the Health Ordinance plan to the Meredith Selectmen at one of their workshops in the July/August 2009 timeframe.
- Among the issues to be addressed by the Health Ordinance are – 1) the “Pocket Plan” issue and 2) how to evaluate “proper functioning” old and undocumented septic systems.
- The septic system analysis of the Meredith properties within 250' of Lake Waukewan has been done. A similar analysis for the towns of New Hampton and Center Harbor needs to be done. For Center Harbor, Bob Vogler has done this analysis using the town hall records, but a second check using the septic system records in Concord needs to be done. For New Hampton, no analysis has been done yet.
- **Action Item: WWAC – Analyze the New Hampton town office septic records for all properties on Lake Waukewan, Lake Winona and the Snake River. Then do the same for the Center Harbor and New Hampton septic records in the Concord office.**

Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2009

Discussion on the 5/20/09 Bob Wenstrup WSOA letter to the Meredith Selectmen:

- The town of Meredith has advised the WWAC, that it is not authorized to conduct a public hearing. Any Meredith public **hearing** must be conducted by Meredith town officials. The charge given the WWAC was to review and comment on the WSOA letter.
- Note: While this meeting was not a meeting for WWAC and WSOA members to discuss 5/20/09 letter, there were 3 WSOA directors present at this meeting – Bill Corr who is also a WWAC member, Kay Anderson and Duncan McNeish who were attending as Meredith residents. They provided helpful information to better understand the issues presented by Bob Wenstrup.
- Perhaps the most important information the three WSOA directors provided was that the 5/20/09 Bob Wenstrup letter wasn't approved by a true WSOA quorum and needs to be reviewed, discussed and voted on again by a true WSOA quorum. They said that the WSOA is meeting in early July to discuss Bob Wenstrup's letter to work these issues out before their annual meeting scheduled for July 11, 2009.
- **Properties with Railroad crossing issues:**
 - This is not a water quality issue and therefore is not a WWAC issue.
- **Chloride issue:**
 - Of the 9 locations tested for chloride on 4/5/2009, the highest chloride value was 66 mg/L. This value is much less than the accepted level standard of 250 mg/L for chloride in drinking water.
 - A second discussion item was that the tests were perhaps taken at a time when Spring runoff was at a peak. Similar tests should be done throughout the year to get an average. Duncan McNeish indicated the WSOA plans to do this additional testing.
 - Discussion regarding the source of these elevated chloride levels suggested that perhaps additional roads around Lake Waukewan should be designated as low salt roads for snow treatments.
 - The question was asked if the Meredith Water Dept has routine tests for chloride in the drinking water. **Action Item: Duncan McNeish – Duncan agreed to contact the Water Dept to see if that have the chloride measurements.**
- **Hazmat Through Trucking issue:**
 - Bruce Bond provided a brief update on the status. The Center Harbor selectmen have provided a letter to support the Meredith position to ban through trucking of hazmat materials on Winona & Waukewan Roads. Bruce reported that New Hampton will be providing a supportive letter shortly.
- **Spear Property status:**
 - Duncan McNeish provided an update. Bob Wenstrup hasn't been able to contact the property owner, Bob Stowell; he's not returning his calls.
 - Bruce reported that on 6/6/09 he sent Bob Stowell an e-mail explaining that it is the WSOA not the WWAC that is pursuing the funding and acquisition of the 8.5 acres to be put in Conservation.
- **Lakes Waukewan/Winona Water Level issue:**
 - A discussion on whether or not this was a water quality issue was had. Bill Corr reported that he is pursuing information on whether higher water levels may be a cause for cyanobacteria blooms. Bill also expressed that he felt the higher water levels increase the amount of shore erosion. In general, it was felt that the water level issue had substantially broader implications than water quality such as public boat ramp issues, dam safety and water reference issues such as building setbacks and even the acreage of the property.
 - Per the Meredith Water Dept, they have strived to maintain a water level of 540.22' (6" below the screw head pin at the boat ramp.

Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2009

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7/15/09 at 8:00 am in the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes were approved at the 7/15/09 WWAC meeting.