

Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2006

Members Present:

Bruce Bond
Caroline Gosse
Roger Hogan
Bonnie Ireland
Peter Miller
Bob Vogler
Tim Whiting

Staff Present:

Bob Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Bruce Bond.

The August 10, 2006 Meeting Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Bruce reported that he and John Edgar had met with Bill Evans, head of NHDES Subsurface Division. Unfortunately John Edgar was not at our meeting tonight, so Bruce summarized briefly what they learned. There are many rules regarding septic systems already in place. One particular rule requires that any building permit issued to an existing property, whether the addition includes a bedroom or not, and has an existing leach field within 75 feet of a water body must have a state approved septic design done. The new designed septic system doesn't have to be installed; it just has to be designed and approved by the state. Bill Evans also doesn't believe the answer to head off failed systems is to mandate that homeowners must have their septic tanks pumped out every X years. There are too many variables to be considered for septic tank pump out time. Based upon the information obtained from discussion with Mr. Evans, John Edgar indicated that he would take a first run at drafting some verbiage that we could incorporate into a septic inspection program.

Bill Evans believes that while policing, failed or inadequate, septic systems is important, he feels the greatest threat to surface water quality comes from runoff and more specifically, the loss of buffer zones between developed land and water bodies.

Bob Vogler reported on his discussion with Scott Lamprey. These are the key points:

- Scott said he would be pleased to offer his assistance to our project but was wary about getting into any witch hunts. I told him that wasn't our mission.
- He is not aware of any 55 gal drum type systems on Waukegan, but does believe there are a few of the 300 gallon Sears & Roebuck systems that were popular in the 1960s. These were mostly steel tanks. Many of these tanks now have rotting covers.
- He didn't offer any simple solutions on how to avoid failed systems. When I asked him what he thought would be a reasonable period of time to have the average septic tank pumped out he felt that every 3 years was reasonable to try to ensure that a septic system would have a 20 year life. But he did say that seasonal camps may not need to be pumped out that often.
- I told him that we have talked to a septic system designer (David Ames). He suggested that we also talk to a septic system installer. Scott Lamprey is a septic hauler and does no installer work.
- Scott said the State requires a site assessment be done when a lakefront property is to be sold. This assessment is for the mapping of the septic system and does not require the septic system be inspected.

Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 24, 2006

- Scott said he would be glad to attend one of our meetings, but he would ask that we submit in advance the topics that we wanted him to discuss so that he could prepare beforehand.

A considerable amount of time was spent on Septic Inspection discussion:

- Mandatory or Voluntary – It was thought that initially it might be advisable to have voluntary inspections and later make them mandatory.
- Initial focus for inspections should be for properties within 250 feet of the water bodies.
- Pursue the possibility of getting a state grant to offset some of the homeowners cost for the septic inspect inspections. This would be especially helpful during the start up of the inspection program.
- Action Item: Bob Hill agreed to draft an inspection program scheme.

Meredith has received notification of intent to harvest the trees on a 27 acre parcel in the Wall Street area by Richard Juve. Considering the substantial runoff issues experienced recently with other properties in that area that impacted Lake Waukewan, the WWAC has great concern about the impact that this proposed harvesting would have on the water quality of Lake Waukewan.

Bruce Bond will write a letter to Carol Granfield, Meredith Town Manager, approving the expenditure of \$12,500 from the WWAC budget allocation to pay half of the feasibility study for extending the sewer line around Lake Waukewan and up the Snake River.

Bruce reported on New Hampton Old Home Days. He felt the time was well spent and that he had good discussions with two of the New Hampton Selectmen and with Barbara Lucas, Town Manager. They were supportive of our overlay district initiative requiring all building lots to be two acres or more within the Waukewan Watershed. They said if we provided them with an overlay district statement, they would put in on the ballot for **2007 Town Meeting** voting.

Scheduled Waukewan Watershed Management Plan presentations:

- Joint meeting with the **Town Planning Boards of Ashland, Center Harbor, Holderness, Meredith & New Hampton** – To be scheduled; John Edgar action to set up.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2006 at 7:00pm - 9:00pm at the Meredith
Town Hall Annex.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes approved at the September 28, 2006 meeting.