

Minutes
Route 20 Sewer Steering Committee
Thursday, September 8, 2011

Present: Bob Haarde (Selectmen), Bob Stein (Finance Committee), Rich Robison (Sudbury Public School Committee), Steve Grande, Ted Pasquarello, Bill Cossart (Sudbury Water District), Eric Poch (Planning Board), Jody Kablack (Dir. Of Planning and Community Development)

Absent: Brian McNamara (Board of Health)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Haarde, appointed temporarily as acting Chairman. It was decided to hold on nomination of officers until a full board was present. Mr. Haarde asked for first impressions on the sewer issue and the formation of the committee.

Mr. Pasquarello questioned whether it was required to proceed to another ballot vote in March 2012, or if the committee could take more time. It was generally agreed that there is no deadline for action.

Mr. Pasquarello further stated that he did not think the residents were adequately informed on the issues and that the Town moved too quickly to a vote once the leaching site was confirmed in January 2011. The most important item is to get information out to the public. Mr. Pasquarello asked if Raytheon was committed to joining the sewer district, as they are a large user and their portion of the fees would significantly impact the project if they did not join. Ms. Kablack stated that Raytheon has indicated to the Town that this project will be beneficial to them, as they would need to upgrade their small sewage treatment plant over the years and hooking into the Town sewer will relieve them of some of those costs. Mr. Pasquarello stated that the committee should think about combining the design and construction costs into 1 ballot vote, and that the operating and maintenance costs must be well understood so the public knows these costs as well. One concern is to make sure the costs aren't prohibitive for small businesses.

Mr. Cossart opined that cost is the biggest issue – how much will everyone be expected to pay, what will be the betterment apportionment, etc.

Mr. Poch stated that the committee needs to look pragmatically at opportunities for better infrastructure in the Town, and have a long term outlook in order for the project to be successful. He opined that the cost issue is very important, and strategies to make it work for each individual business and property owner need to be explored, such as a tiered system for payment or deferral.

Mr. Grande stated that all costs and benefits should be quantified so that the cost of the system is not unfairly placed entirely on the commercial taxpayers. He agreed that a tiered payment system may work. There is a benefit to groundwater protection which most residents will reap. Some properties have potential for increased development, and their payment may be different

from a property that is already fully developed. Mr. Pasquarello noted that shopping convenience in the business district is also a town-wide benefit.

Mr. Haarde moved the discussion to the mission statements of the Steering Committee and the Citizen's Advisory Committee. He thought that the cost determination should be handled by the Steering Committee, and recommended a vote be taken to request the Selectmen revise the mission statement to reflect this. He also thought that strategies for payment such as betterments and deferral should be taken up by the Steering Committee, as well as the Route 20 zoning.

Ms. Kablack noted that the Planning Board will begin a public process shortly, working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, to review Route 20 zoning with sewer capacity. A \$25,000 District Local Technical Assistance Grant has been awarded for MAPC staff to work with the Town on this issue. A public forum has tentatively been scheduled for Oct. 26, 2011. The zoning project must be completed by Dec. 31, 2011. Mr. Haarde noted that the Steering Committee is responsible for supervising all activities related to the sewer project.

Mr. Pasquarello stated that information from business owners as to their expansion plans would be helpful to have for the committee.

Mr. Robison stated there is a need to educate the school population on the potential impacts to the Curtis site, if any, from the leaching system, as well as the basic water supply concerns.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to request the Selectmen move the function of determining cost allocation and all aspects of cost (operation and maintenance) from the CAC to the Steering Committee by revising the mission statements of both committees.

The group next reviewed the 11 applications submitted for membership on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to recommend appointment of the following members, with the caveat that Richard Cohen and Hal Garnick from CGI Companies (Sudbury Crossing Plaza) would share their membership and constitute only 1 vote:

John Baranowsky
Kirsten Roopenian
Daniel Kenn
Marty Ragonas
Peter Abair
Ellen Joachim
Craig Blake
Jonathan Lapat
Richard Cohen/Hal Garnick

The committee will note to the Selectmen that all of the above applicants are not Sudbury residents, but the non-residents are business owners.

The committee further noted that Thomas Travers was not recommended due to an explanation by Ms. Kablack that Mr. Travers' membership on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee precludes him from being on any other Town committee.

Steering Committee members will continue to solicit names for the CAC, particularly from more business owners. Names circulated for membership included Louis Stephan (Chamber of Commerce), Bill Duckett (Duckett Funeral Home), Michael Precourt, Michael Coutu (Sudbury Design Group), Chuck Katz (Rugged Bear Plaza), Raytheon. Residents mentioned included Bryan Koop and John Barry, both of who are in the commercial real estate business and were on the Economic Development Committee in the early 1990's. Various Steering Committee members will contact these people.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011 at 7:30 pm

Action items to be completed prior to that meeting are:

Jody Kablack will send orientation materials to committee members, including the 2001 Needs Assessment, 2010 Update, 2011 Frequently Asked Questions, spreadsheet of all properties in the proposed sewer service district, information on betterment districts.

Bob Haarde will begin researching other Town's experiences.

Ted Pasquarello will draft a survey to send to businesses. Jody Kablack will send the old survey previously conducted by the CAC.

Lastly, the committee had a brief, general discussion on groundwater protection and how it relates to the sewer project. Mr. Cossart stated that there is no imminent risk to groundwater currently from any activity in the business district, and that the water quality is excellent. However the existence of the commercial district directly over the town's wells is the greatest threat. The cost to remediate would be high if contamination were to occur. This project creates risk avoidance.

Mr. Poch added that soil saturation from septic systems will occur over time, causing the potential for contamination. The reduced leaching capability will also play a role in deciding whether a business can continue to operate in Sudbury without a sewer system.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. Election of officers will occur at the next meeting.