

Water Pollution Control Commission

Town of Clinton, 54 East Main St., Clinton, CT 06413
Rose Room

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
SPECIAL MEETING

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Michael MacDonald called the January 24, 2012 special Meeting to order at 7:03 PM in the Rose Room of the William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall.

Present: Hal Dolan, Laura Peterson, James Scanlon, Michael MacDonald (Chairman), Brian O'Connor

Absent: Lynn Pinder (Vice Chairman), Carl Neri

Guests: Kristie Wagner of CDM Smith, Christine Goupil alternate member of Planning and Zoning

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

MacDonald began the meeting and introduced Christine Goupil. Alan Kravitz was in contact with MacDonald about scheduling a joint meeting between WPCC and Planning and Zoning. MacDonald asked Christine to update WPCC on progress Planning and Zoning is making toward the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development. Christine updated the group. The Conservation and Development plan needs to be completed by 2015. The original plan to have a joint meeting to discuss The Plan of Conservation and Development has been canceled; instead Alan and Christine will attend a meeting for each board and commission. They would like to form a steering committee comprised of one member from each board and commission. Once they have enough input from all the boards and commissions and town residents they will outsource the final plan to a consulting company. Every board and commission has their own goals. The last document was done in 1970, now there are more issues, such as sewers, economic development, preserving the historic district, preserving open space, and maintaining town character. The Conservation Commission will draft its own plan. Alan is looking for input from everyone in town. He will be arranging walks around the town in an effort to communicate with all residents. He is trying to make the process open to all. A consulting firm will ultimately pull all the pieces together. There are still areas open for development. Planning and Zoning is sympathetic to the wishes of the community. Design standards will not be included in the document. The document will ultimately be an advisory plan to the design and review board. The hope is that businesses and residents will follow their recommendations. This is a large document and requires a town planner, but for now it is in the hands of volunteers. MacDonald pointed out the current document mentions "sewer avoidance", exactly the opposite approach of what WPCC is working on. These references need to be taken out and amended to reflect the Commission's and hopefully the town's current stance of sewer solutions. He explained that WPCC will participate with planning and zoning. An appointed liaison between the two commissions would be helpful. MacDonald asked that if any commission member is personally interested in participating in this process, to please let him know at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Dolan **moved** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the January 10, 2012 Meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Dolan, Peterson, MacDonald, Scanlon. Opposed: none Abstained: O'Connor. The motion **carried** 4-0-1.

CORRESPONDENCE

- MacDonald discussed meeting attendance, since all meetings after February 15 will be regular meetings and a quorum will be needed. MacDonald requested a reminder be sent out to all commission members stating that all meetings on the WPCC calendar after February 15 are regular meetings and their

attendance is required. He also wanted to review the town charter and if needed revise and define in regards to meeting attendance.

- An announcement regarding the public information meeting will be forwarded to the Harbor News, The Patch and the Town Web Site.
- Gail from Envirotech called the office to find out if there is any assistance for residents who cannot pay their bills. The commission said the septic tank is part of general household costs; there is no assistance from the town that anyone is aware of. O'Connor suggested checking into a small cities grant.
- Darby Hittle of GeoInsight is interested in volunteering his time and expertise to inputting geologic data into the town's GIS data base. Wagner and MacDonald agreed that most of the work has been done for WPCC but maybe Conservation or Julie could use his help. The Town's GIS system is administered through the Land Use Department and not by the WPCC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **CDM**
 - Public Information Meeting – Wagner presented everyone with an updated draft of the powerpoint presentation she will be using. Dennis Greci of DEEP, Mary Jane Engle of CRAHD, WPCC Attorney John Wertam and Tim Dupuis of CDMSmith all confirmed they will attend. Formal presentations will be made by WPCC, Willie Fritz and CDMSmith. MacDonald felt that DEEP and CRAHD did not need to formally present material; they should be present for questions and technical information. MacDonald felt fewer speakers would be better and to keep it short and to the point. A moderator can direct the questions at the end. Wagner went through the different slides and the commission discussed which material would be presented in hopes of keeping the meeting short and to the point. MacDonald went through the Introduction and material he would be presenting. He plans to introduce each commission member. He will put the entire problem into perspective for the public. He will present some demographic statistics. Approximately, one third of the population in town is in a needs area, and this is a town wide problem requiring a town wide solution. He will update current activities under the On-Site Wastewater Management Ordinance. Part of the solution is the pump out ordinance and MacDonald will discuss this. He will suggest homeowners ask if the pumper is registered with the town of Clinton. WPCC and CDMSmith would like to convey to the public that they understand the concerns of the community and have included these issues into their plans. Namely by trying to avoid using the Hammonasset River, not relocating any residence, and not using the school properties. Further discussion included what questions might be asked and that it would be helpful to include how everything may be funded. Maps will be put up around the room for a visual perspective of the information. It was agreed not to mention names of property owners out of courtesy, even though the contact lists are now part of the WPCC record. The public will need to know that more capacity is required to solve the problem than has been found on the three sites tested in 2011. The commission discussed a possible future referendum vote "Would you approve a town wastewater solution to include future development, or just the minimum capacity for existing pollution problems". Handouts were discussed, Wagner was thinking of handing out the power point presentation, MacDonald suggested bullet points which can be uploaded to the web site. WPCC's intent is to gain access to properties for sampling. For very large parcels, the intent is not to purchase entire parcels, just what is needed. WPCC is not looking to displace landowners. MacDonald suggests WPCC come up with a date for a public information meeting in August. CDMSmith will present suggested solutions at that meeting. It was decided to hold an additional special meeting on February 7, in the Rose Room for a final dry run.
 - Access agreements – Wagner, MacDonald, and Pinder via telecommunication, will meet with Wertam to draft the next set of more persuasive letters to unresponsive property owners. Wertam will need a record of how many letters have been sent thus far. Lynn will need to provide the file. The wet season is quickly approaching, therefore in an effort to move forward access to certain properties are crucial. Test pits will need to be dug, monitoring wells put in,

permeability testing done and this data is all needed to establish capacity data. Wagner left the meeting at 8:45 PM.

- **On-site Wastewater Management Ordinance**
 - Approximately 300 post cards have been mailed out. Registration forms for septic tank cleaners and installers are currently being received. Mailing fees were investigated and found \$168 (per 2500 post cards) would be saved if Technique Printers was used versus in-house copying. All agreed.
- **Monitoring Well Data**
 - Unilever – MacDonald suggested the Unilever item be closed. WPCC should send correspondence to Unilever declaring that WPCC is no longer interested in the property or the wastewater treatment system. Unfortunately Unilever did not provide enough information on the wastewater treatment system, this would not serve the towns interests to pursue any further.
 - Lagoons – Wagner will look into procedures for closing the lagoons. She will look at the information CDMSmith has from 2002-2003 when closure procedures came to a halt.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Land Use Referrals** –No new referrals.

CHAIRMAN'S/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

No comments – Next Special Meeting will be held on February 7, 2012 in the Rose Room. The Public Information meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Green Room. The next Regular meeting will be held on February 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Rose Room, all members are asked to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Dolan **moved** to adjourn the meeting. O'Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Mickens
Recording Clerk