

ROCKY LEDGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Public Involvement Program



Town of Clinton, CT

Water Pollution
Control Commission

January 20, 2015

WPCC Public Involvement Program

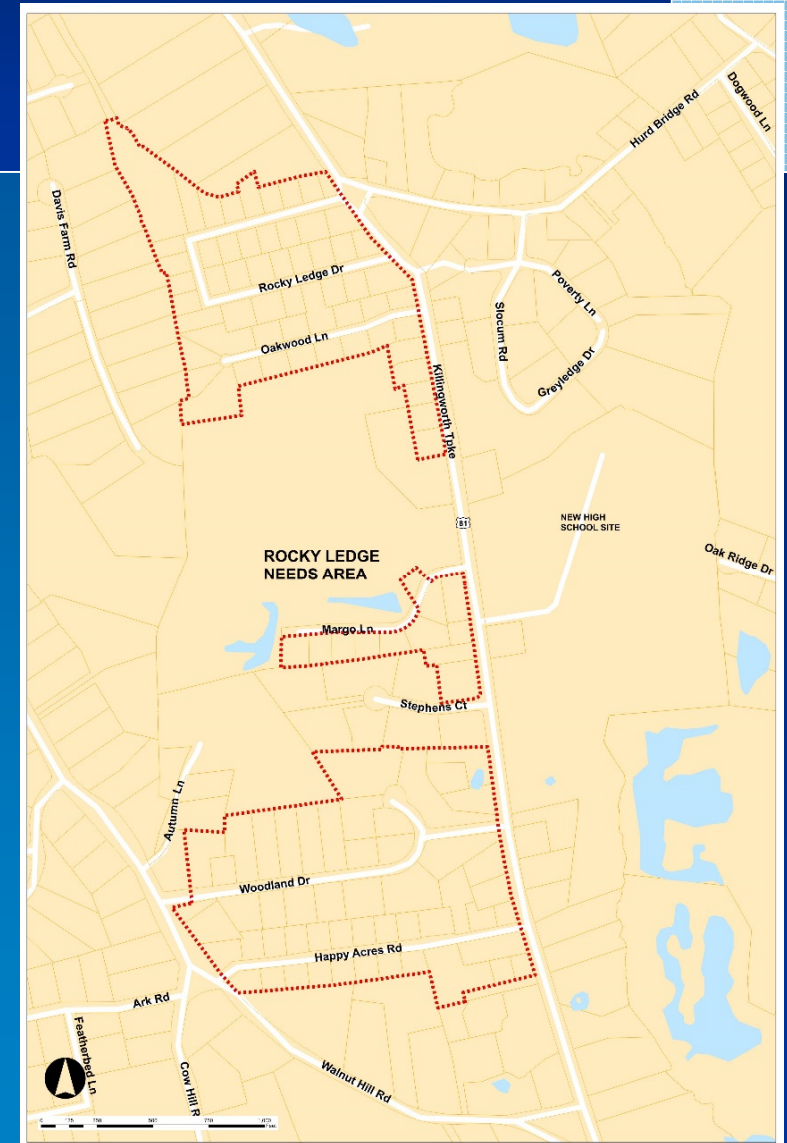
Purpose:

- Explain Wastewater Facilities Planning Process and DEEP Consent Order
- Engage people in assessing realities of their own lives and conditions as a basis for plans and actions that will be for the betterment of all
- Solve the problem of limited knowledge and faulty assumptions
- Develop a shared vision



Rocky Ledge Needs Area

- One of several areas identified in early wastewater facilities planning studies (1970s): small lots, presence of ledge and groundwater making septic system functioning difficult, and dependency on wells for drinking water
- Total 122 Homes:
 - Rocky Ledge Drive – 35
 - Oakwood Lane – 15
 - Killingworth Turnpike – 19
 - Margo Lane – 8
 - Woodland Drive – 20
 - Happy Acres Road – 23
 - Cow Hill Road – 2



Rocky Ledge Needs Area- water sampling and file search project

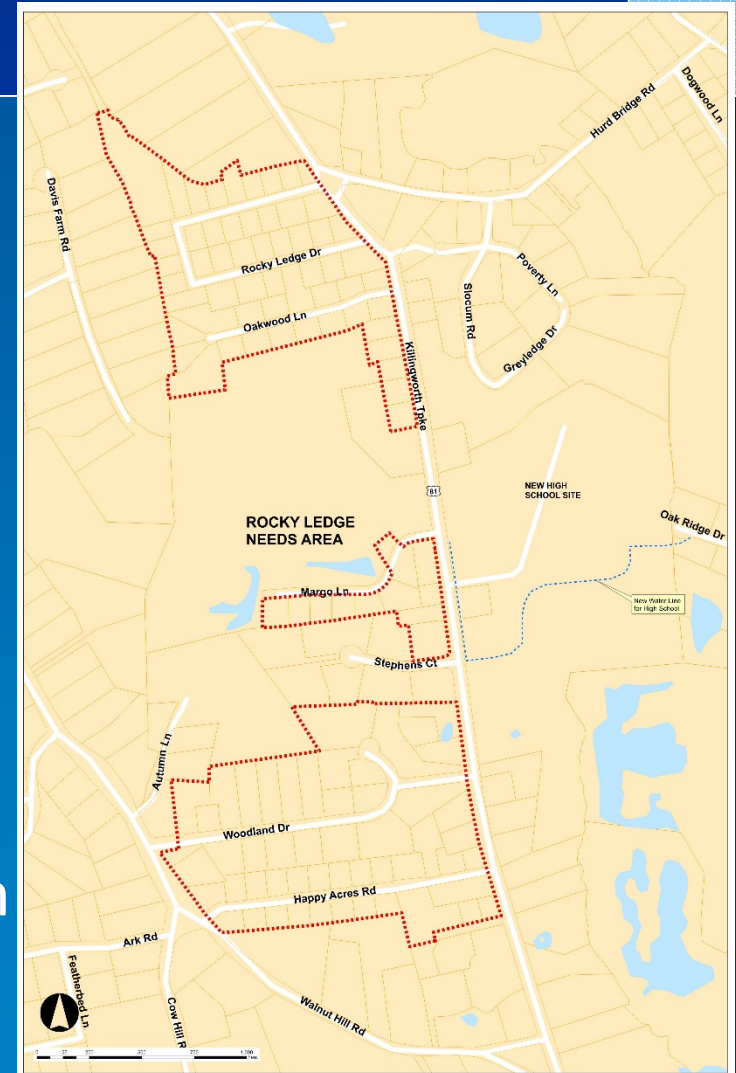
- File searches and water testing conducted to confirm conditions and concerns
- 48 of 122 (39%) properties had wells sampled by WPCC and CRAHD since 2011
 - Of those, 56% impacted by coliform or nitrates
- All property files searched for available info on water/septic
 - Numerous exceptions to 75-foot separation distance between well and septic
- All properties studied for potential to upgrade septic on site to current health code standards *if wells were not present.*
 - 95+% of the properties can meet this criteria

Rocky Ledge Needs Area - Data

Street and # of properties	# (%) sampled	Of sample set, # (%) contaminated (Coliform or nitrates only)	Of all parcels, # (%) known health code allowance	Total # (%) contamination and/or allowance
Happy Acres Rd. (23)	10 (43%)	4 (40%)	8 (35%)	12 (52%)
Killingworth Tpke. (19)	7 (37%)	3 (43%)	11 (58%)	11 (58%)
Margo La. (8)	1 (13%)	0 (0%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)
Oakwood La. (15)	8 (53%)	4 (50%)	7 (47%)	10 (67%)
Rocky Ledge Dr. (35)	16 (46%)	14 (88%)	7 (20%)	19 (54%)
Woodland Dr. (20)	6 (30%)	2 (33%)	7 (35%)	9 (45%)
Cow Hill Rd. (2)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total (122)	48 (39%)	27 (56%)	43 (35%)	64 (52%)

Rocky Ledge Needs Area- Next Steps

- Public Water Extension viable option, and less expensive than sewers/wastewater treatment
 - Will provide source of clean drinking water, and also open up available space for code-compliant septic systems
- Preliminary discussions underway with Connecticut Water Company (CWC), Department of Public Health (DPH) and DEEP regarding logistics and funding



Overall Schedule for Facilities Planning

- Facilities Plan – Outreach and Approvals in 2015
 - *Town Residents*
 - WPCC
 - CT DEEP
 - Board of Selectmen
 - Board of Finance
 - CRAHD
- Commence Conceptual Design – 2016, focusing on highest-priority areas first
- *Rocky Ledge water main extension may be separated from this project to accelerate potential construction*

Thank you all for your interest and for attending!

The WPCC intends to finalize the Wastewater Facilities Plan in 2015. Community outreach and feedback is a vital component.

We need to know what your questions and concerns are!

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (2 pages) WERE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION:

Q. From Oakwood Lane, has high sulfur content in well water, will it get worse? **A.** J.Monopoli (Director of Health, CRAHD) answered he would need to know the condition of the well, many factors are involved. Private Wells are the homeowner's responsibility and if the well is not maintained properly or it is a dug well it is easier for contaminants to seep in and cause problems down the road. Spills can occur such as the recent oil tank leak and leach into neighboring wells. It is important to test your well water on a regular basis.

Q. From Rocky Ledge Drive. When they built Clinton Crossings, the blasting caused damage to many of the homes. Who will pay for the damages done to the homes when the water main is installed? **A.** M.Kennedy (WPCC) and C.Guelke (WPCC) answered the question. An inventory survey would be done ahead of time and vibration sensors would be used to avoid vibrations above a certain threshold. This issue will be considered as the project progresses.

Q. When do you expect the public water to go in? **A.** K.Wagner (CDM Smith) answered 2-3 years is the current best estimate, though note that the project has no formal approvals yet. The water company will be putting in a line for the new high school which will come out across Oak Ridge Drive and a larger main is going in, than originally planned to allow for this extension.

Q. Moved in 10 years ago from Brooklyn NY and had no knowledge of this occurring, had not planned for this expense, although he would love water and sewer. Main concern is the cost. **A.** Rocky Ledge is one of the top three neighborhoods needing a solution. A waterline is a less invasive and less expensive solution. A water line is generally shallower than a sewer line, and there is no need for wastewater treatment or effluent disposal. Not an option to do nothing in this neighborhood.

Q. I am 80 years old and live on Woodland Drive have great well water and no septic problems. Where would someone my age get the money to pay for this? **A.** Grants and loans will be available, but we have not gotten the specifics yet. The WPCC is currently applying for a loan with Department of Public Health, the town can bond the project and other smaller grant or loan programs may be available for homeowners. The WPCC understands that cost is a primary concern and is committed to evaluating as many funding options as possible.

Q. A resident asked if a demographic study was done. Many people in the area are concerned about finances or are on a fixed income. Some are on home dialysis and cannot have chlorine in the water. **A.** There are existing health risks with many of the wells in this area. This Public Involvement Program is intended in part to gather information about other concerns from residents.

Q. How are you addressing issues with septic systems that have problems? The neighbors tank collapsed and was covered over and is still being used, it is less than 40 feet from my well. The problem should be addressed. The tank was pumped out but the problem was never reported. **A.** The pump out ordinance is a huge piece of the solution. H.Dolan noted a letter was sent to the septic service companies that problems need to be reported to the Health District and there are consequences if that is not done.

Q. I live on a corner lot, would I have to pay for the entire distance that the water line wraps around my yard? **A.** Dave Radka (CT Water Co.) answered: The water company is looking into more funding, the numbers aren't all in. Some of the cost will be funded through contributions from CT Water Company. Many factors go into the cost assessment such as the number of residence served, and linear footage of main. Other funding available may be a DEEP grant; the town may bond a portion, and a loan from the Department of Public Health. The homeowner will not pay a linear footage assessment as that is not typical of the CT Water Company charge structure. Typically the Water Company will install the line in front of the house, but the homeowner would be responsible for the service to the house. The WPCC will be looking into ways to help homeowners with their portion of the cost.

Q: Do I have to connect to the water line if it goes by my house? **A.** Carlos Esguerra (DEEP) answered if your well is not impacted, you *may* not need to tie in, but it is premature to answer definitively. Potential impacts of your well on your neighbor's septic area must also be considered.