

Greensboro Selectboard

November 26, 2024 Special Meeting - Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Town Offices]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Kelley, Ellen Celnik, Bobbie Nisbet

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: MacNeil, Eric Hanson

OTHERS PRESENT (in person): Kim Greaves, Paul Fixx, Jan Terweisch

OTHERS PRESENT (remote): Dan Predpall, Dave Edson, Amy DeCola, Christine Armstrong, DeDe Stabler, Elaine Cole-Kerr, Elissa Mackin, Elisabeth Sartorius, Gary Circosta, Glenn Olds, Lise Armstrong, Michael Porrazzo, Josh Karp, Vince Cubbage, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Melanie Clarke, Megan Wright, BJ Gray, Anne Stevens, Stew Arnold, Iola Benedict, Erika Karp, Anthony Acheson

CALLED TO ORDER: 4 PM

AGENDA: Community Wastewater Project

Bobbie: Alice Perron reached out to me yesterday and we had a conversation. After she heard there is no septic capacity for the RuralEdge (RE) project on the town hall property, her family agreed that perk testing could proceed on an area of their farmland. Alice said no one has reached out to them since the testing was done, and now she's heard the town is considering the site for a community wastewater system. She's frustrated with the town's process and also with the attitude of some townspeople who haven't been so nice to some of her family members. Alice said at this point the land is not for sale.

David: so we lose this opportunity?

Dan: we'd lose all the construction funds, but we'd still have access to engineering funds and could continue to design a system. But at this time, unless the golf course is interested, we haven't found any suitable sites. The town would have to start the process over, and next time around may have to foot some of the bill due to the \$2.5 million in ARPA funds being one-time money.

David: perhaps Dan Predpall and someone from Hoyle Tanner (HT) could meet with the Perrons.

Dave Edson (HT): we spent quite a bit of time explaining the project to members of St. Michael's church, we could have a similar conversation with the Perrons.

Dan suggested explaining to the Perrons why a community wastewater system is so important for the town and for long term economic development. A successful small system could open up the door to more systems in the future. Dave Edson said this could be considered a starter system.

Ellen: it's a shame this project became so divisive and has put so much pressure on the Perrons. Could this site be used for the RE project? If so, what would need to be done to meet grant timeline requirements?

David: would this site have wastewater capacity for a scaled-down RE project of 16 units instead of 20?

Dave Edson: while we had some discussions early on with RE, we haven't talked with them recently. In order for them to use this site, they would have to reduce their proposed wastewater flows and thus the scope of their project. I recall that the developer told us a smaller project is not financially feasible.

Ellen : RE told us that the economics of the project won't work with less than 18 units.

Dave Edson: there's currently no way the RE project can happen, there's no place for their wastewater to go. Maybe it's time to have another discussion with RE. It then becomes an unusual situation where the town is developing a wastewater system for a single customer.

Jan: offering all of this wastewater allocation to RE is unthinkable. Willey's Store, Macleods, Burgess/Virden's, and other village septic systems are close to failing, we need a community project for the long term health of Greensboro village.

David asked what else HT needs from the town before the 12/31 deadline. Dave Edson said they have enough information, including prioritization criteria, from last week's meeting to continue with their preliminary engineering report.

Naomi asked whether the old firehouse can be included in the community wastewater system. Dave Edson said the final choice of who is offered connections will be up to the town, but the key thing now is acquiring the disposal site. He noted the Perron site is not an ideal site by any means, the disposal field will likely have to be built up like a mound system to make it work.

Bobbie said she could set up the meeting with Alice and others. Residents and businesses want this system, how can we help determine how many houses and businesses this system could support? Dave Edson said for design purposes HT uses a State DEC manual to determine how many homes and businesses any given site can support.

Dan: I think HT is using figures of 250 GPD for homes, whereas Willey's could use as much as 1000-1500 GPD. We're looking at a total system capacity of about 15 homes plus Willey's.

Dave Edson: once the system goes into operation you'll have real data, and if it works out there's additional system capacity you can always add more homes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 12/12/24 J.K.