

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MADISON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

June 24, 2020

Minutes

Time of Meeting: 6 pm

Location: ZOOM On-Line Meeting

1. **Attendance: Present** - Tom Hansen, Graham Curtis, Mark Aron, Peter Pastore, Tom Lonsdale

Also present – Trent Joseph (Public Health), Lauren Rhines (Town Services Coordinator)

2. **Minutes:** Review of minutes from December 2019. Minutes were approved without comment.

3. **Citizen's comments:** None

4. **Health Director's Report:** Trent Joseph gave the following report.

- COVID 19 seems to have produced a surge in applications for new and renovated septic systems associated with residential development. Many requests for soil testing and system repairs.
- Six residential systems are in failure (breakout),
- Trent working with contractors to make repairs and meet best practices.
- Some engineered systems due to poor soils and lot characteristics. Mostly routine.
- Working with 2 to 4 restaurants on upgrading their systems.
- No progress on the WPCA request for analysis of septic system issues in Smith Bay. High groundwater and poor surface drainage continue to be a problem here and other locations off of Neck Road.
- The design of 4 Boston Post Road is on hold for the time being.
- Community systems. No issues. Had one discussion with a new unit owner in Legend Hill.

5. **Madison Water Pollution Control Plan**

- No suggested edits/changes/comments

6. **Update from the Madison Resiliency Committee**

Graham Curtis provided an update:

The committee has been meeting on line. Action items include working on revisions to the Town's flood control; regulations following a DEEP sample code. Presently discussions about setting the design flood elevation 1 or 2 feet above the 100 year flood elevation.

Discussing the "look back" period for requiring improvements. A five-year look back is on the table for improvements made in excess of 50% of the value of the dwelling.

Met with Public Works. PWD mostly focused on public infrastructure, roads drainage, etc.

Septic systems along Neck Road and side streets are getting attention. A 20" sea level rise with put these systems under water. Structural solutions are needed.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

The committee will be making a presentation to BOS in the future. May include a recommendation to hire a consultant for further work.

Mark Aron recommended that the WPCA and Resiliency Committee work jointly to recommend a comprehensive wastewater management strategy. The WPCA requested that the Resiliency Committee endorse the WPCA recommendation to update the Wastewater Facilities Plan as a sound approach to address wastewater disposal issues arising from sea level change.

The committee next meets on July 8th. ZOOM meeting at 7 pm.

7. Discussion of septic problem areas

- **Flooding in Smith Bay area.** Tom Lonsdale reports that due to the dry weather, there have not been too many complaints from residents. The Health Department and WPCA are aware of persistent flooding conditions that are occurring in the area. The resiliency committee is looking at this area be considered for a community wastewater system.
- **Beach communities.** No update. The WPCA has asked the Health Department to identify certain seasonal beach communities that are required to submit general permits to DEEP. The general permit includes an engineering report documenting the wastewater flows and the wastewater disposal systems in use.
- **Arbor Lane.** No update. The WPCA has asked the Health Department to determine if water service could be, or should be, extended down Arbor Lane in the future. Such an extension could be pursued in conjunction with any planned development of properties in this area.

8. Wastewater Facilities Plan

Tom Hansen gave an update on the current status of DEEP funded plan updates in Clinton, Westbrook and Old Lyme. The Clinton experience is particularly relevant. They have proposed 5 or 6 areas for wastewater management districts. Also wastewater collection and treatment for Main Street commercial district. The Rocky Ledge area is recommended for water mains in order to free up space for septic system repairs. Funding is the major holdup.

Both Clinton and Westbrook are under DEEP consent orders to finalize and implement their plans.

Old Lyme is working on a joint agreement to implement a sewer system for two areas of town and three private beach areas. Sewers to New London.

The Madison Plan was discussed. Peter Pastore recommended that a smaller, truncated plan be developed that might be easier to fund. Perhaps starting with Smith Bay or another of the areas of concern.

9. Wastewater management Districts

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Tom Hansen briefly discussed the draft standards and guidelines for wastewater management districts. All member have draft copy.

10. Strategic Plan for the Town of Madison.

- Hansen reports that there has not been a response to WPCA comments. No new meetings are planned.

11. Downtown sewer study. There is no update.

12. Citizen comments: None

13. Adjourn: 7:30 PM

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