

Schoolhouse Task Force

Minutes of Meeting

April 16, 2014

Present: Pete Czaja, Millissa Frost, Greg Leech, Susan Thomas

Guest: Charlie Van Winkle

Meeting with Charlie Van Winkle

This meeting at the Schoolhouse was devoted to consulting with engineer Charlie Van Winkle about wastewater scenarios at the Schoolhouse. He brought a flood zone map which shows that the Schoolhouse is not in a flood hazard area or wetland. But he confirmed the high water table at the site, which would necessitate a prescriptive mound system with a pre-treatment filtration system. The system installed at the Underhill Country Store several years ago in a high water table area was very expensive. The Schoolhouse should be grandfathered because of its long existence at the site. Ultimately, approval rests with the Agency of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Solutions depend on what the building will be used for.

He also brought a map of the area with a chart illustrating how a system would be sized depending on use. Given the approved capacity of the building, it appears the system would need to handle about 310 gallons per day. There was a proposal to share restroom and/or septic facilities with the nearby recreation area, but that area seems to be wet also. Perhaps part of the system could be located on a nearby property. Wastewater could be pumped to a leach field on the Central School property with a 1 HP pump. The area behind the recreation field or the field across the road might be possibilities.

Wastewater rules are changing with new technology – becoming more progressive and innovative. The task force needs to have a conversation with a wastewater permit specialist at the DEC regional office in Essex Junction. The system should be easy to maintain, but a pre-treatment system will be needed regardless. If the building or a portion of the building were rented, a change in use permit would be required. The question of using composting toilets was raised. It is unclear whether this would be practical or allowed and needs further investigation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Wed., April 30, 2014, at the Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Susan Thomas