

Town of Tisbury
Sewer Advisory Committee
Open Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Meeting Convened: 4:03PM

Committee Members Present: (Quorum of four members) Jeff Pratt – Board of Health;
Dan Seidman – Planning Board; John Best – Conservation; Melinda Loberg – Board
of Selectmen

Staff: Paul Ernst, Jon Snyder, Ray Tattersall

Consultants: Bob Rafferty and Mark White, Environmental Partners

Guests: John Roberts and Adam Bresnick (Island Food Products)

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve November 29, 2017 minutes – postponed until
next meeting.

IHT Proposed project with Island Food Products – Discussion:

John Roberts described a potential project to convert his 4-acre property (Island Food Products) on Vineyard Haven-Edgartown Rd. to an 81-unit mixed use commercial and affordable/workforce housing. With assistance of a group of MIT graduate students, and a layout of 81-100 units, they were able to demonstrate the financials using state aid and grants. Because the property is partly located in the Zone 1 (well protection) and and primarily in the Lagoon Pond Watershed, wastewater disposal is the primary initial concern for the viability of the project. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Bresnick are inquiring if the project can be tied into the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Environmental Partners summarized the flow: with 100 units, there would be 300 bedrooms with a Title 5 flow of 33,000 gpd (actual flow will be 50-60% of that, or 18,000 gpd). The town would need to discuss its priorities. Current commitments include reserving the existing 104,000gpd the plant is currently permitted for to those who are currently paying betterments created when the plant was built and a few properties added subsequently (VNA, Vineyard House, Museum, High Point Lane). Future commitments are to expand the capacity of the plant to 140,000gpd to address growth and nitrogen reduction needs along the State Rd. business corridor. Therefore, to accommodate this proposed new flow would require an expansion of the capacity of the sewer plant – a new SBR and associated capital investment. Alternatively, the whole project could be accommodated by a package plant on site.

The Town could choose to create an additional sewer district to include this property. A choice would have to be made about who should get the remaining flow – and for whom to expand the plant. With the wicks coming on-line, the disposal needs that an expansion would require would be addressed.

John Best stated that establishing these priorities for the town is largely the role of Wastewater Planning Committee advising the Board of Selectmen. The Sewer Advisory Committee focuses on implementing the sewer needs that the town requests. Our two Boards as well as the Planning Board will review the proposal as it develops. Realistically, this process will take 3-5 years.

IHT was encouraged to speak with Jay Grande about the project. He is familiar with this level of planning and the state programs that may be sources of funding. They should also research alternative wastewater treatment technologies, such as the one being piloted by the Tisbury Board of Health.

Report on Fairhaven Wick Site Visit:

Melinda will send a summary of the lessons learned and there will be further discussion at a meeting devoted to wicks.

Billing Issues:

There was one question about the quarterly fee (\$50) being charged twice, but it was actually for two months. Ray will explain it.

Josh Goldstein, Committee member not present, complained about two things: the quarterly fee for being on the system, and the grease trap pumping process. VOTE: to put Josh on the agenda for our next meeting to discuss these issues.

Melinda stated that the Board of Selectmen requested a written policy of how billing abatements would be handled before allowing the Wastewater Department to handle these requests.

The WTF has a contract with an off-island firm to provide grease trap pump-out. State regulates govern the frequency of these pump-outs which in actuality are more frequent than necessary. The contract comes up for renewal sometime in March. We need to decide whether to continue with them, or to develop a policy and require grease trap pumping to be privately handled. Paul proposed a new grease trap policy that requires the owner to contract with a local septic hauler for up to four times each year (DEP requirement) and to provide proof to the Town that it was done. We will provide a list of approved haulers.

Motion: to approve in principle the development of a policy dealing with grease trap pumping and review the draft at an upcoming meeting. All in favor.

Environmental Partners Update:

There were problems with the bidding process for the Headworks Equipment project. The two bidders were not adhering to identical specs. A new bidding process will be done in the future that will combine the equipment and the construction. The goal is to have construction in the fall of 2018.

State Road Sewer District:

This requires intense work identifying parcels and doing the calculations to manage the daily flows to not exceed the 140,000 gpd maximum. Other decisions such as cost allo-

cation, connection requirements, etc. need to be decided. A sub-committee of Melinda, Jeff Kristal, Dan, John and Paul was formed and assigned to meet separately with EPG to better define the district and make some recommendations to the committee.

Agenda Items for Feb. 14th meeting:

Hearing for Josh's complaints – grease trap
2 draft policies to review.

Motion to Adjourn: 5:45PM