

Tisbury Sewer Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Meeting
February 22, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members: Jeff Pratt, John Best, Daniel Seidman, Chris Scott, Connie Alexander
Staff: Jared Meader, Melinda Byers, Jon Snyder
Select Board members: Abbe Burt

Jeff Pratt: Calls the meeting to order at 3:10pm. Starts with approval of February 8, 2023 minutes.

Motion to hold vote on minutes until next meeting.

John Best: Seconds

Vote:

John Best (aye)

Dan Seidman (aye)

Connie Alexander (aye)

Jeff Pratt (aye)

Motion passed: (4-0-0)

Chris Scott joins the meeting at 3:13PM.

Review Warrant Articles

Jared Meader: The 3 articles are now condensed into one. We are no longer removing parcels; we are only adding parcels. I met with John & Connie last week and there were some concerns about properties that were removed. I spoke to Bob Rafferty who reevaluated the numbers. There is enough capacity based on Title V to add those properties to what is existing. It is all the centralized sewer system. The term B1 or B2 has strictly been used to refer to specific areas and which properties are included in that area. It doesn't matter where the flow is coming from. It needs to be maintained. The sewer main is staying on State Rd. It will be up to the customer to run pipe to get to the main.

Dan Seidman: Who's expense will it be where the pipe runs up the road by the MV Savings Bank or Nobnocket?

Jared Meader: If we put the lift station there, then it is our responsibility. The service lines from the properties are their expense. The proposed plan for the Mass Works Grant is that they install approx. 1200 feet of sewer main from the end of Holmes Hole Road up to the VNA. They would also have to run their own service lines to that connection or use a gravity feed. Those are two potential options, whichever is less costly.

Jeff Pratt: The Holmes Hole district has not paid a betterment fee, but they will, correct?

Jared Meader: No. No one in the B2 district has paid anything. The way other towns do it is if you put in a certain amount of infrastructure, that amount would be deducted from your betterment fee.

John Best: Are we treating all the sewer as one with respect to B1 & B2?

Jared Meader: Yes. B1 & B2 were labeled that strictly for design and building purposes. Once it is built, it doesn't matter where the flow goes it all comes to the same plant.

John Best: I thought you said the Breakdown Lane would be tied into the B1? Now it's not?

Jared Meader: When I was asked to rewrite the articles I asked if there was anything specific that would make it not one district? Jay said no.

John Best: The whole premise of adding the B2 district was to reduce nitrogen going into Tashmoo. That and the fact a lot of businesses were compromised as far as Title V systems go. The idea was that the 34,000 gallons was going toward the nitrogen reduction. Now you're saying everything is pooled.

The B2 district might be slow to use that 34, 000 gallons but the B1 might be anxious to try to obtain more flow.

Jared Meader: The goal is nitrogen reduction in Tashmoo. Whether we call the Breakdown Lane B1 or B2, it's in the Tashmoo watershed. By adding them to the system we are removing more nitrogen from Tashmoo. We are going to use the whole 34,000 gallons and take another 355 gallons from B1.

John Best: My concern is that if people don't tie up in B2 right away, that the flow will be used by B1 and it won't be there for nitrogen reduction.

Jeff Pratt: If we have 35,000 gallons assigned to B2, we won't be taking that away even if they don't tie in right away. Regardless of whether you tie in or not, do you pay a betterment fee? Is that's correct Jon Snyder?

Jon Snyder: Yes, that's correct.

Jeff Pratt: Whether it is called B1 or B2, the flow is still assigned to that district. We are not getting rid of the nomenclature of B1 and B2. Those areas have assigned flow that cannot be taken away.

Jared Meader: What we are estimating to be 34,335 gallons, is in water usage only 20,175 gallons. We need to create a policy which states that a betterment is paid but also make it have a mandatory tie in date. When I started, we had a permit for a 104-thousand-gallon system and we added all the numbers up and it came to 112 thousand gallons. We over allocated the system.

What we do now is after 3 years, a property that was given 3000 gallons of flow and has an average use of 2,100 gallons being used, will get flow reassignment. They will pay for 3000 because that is what they told us they needed but based on their usage, we reassign the unused flow. Someone who has never tied in, has the flow set aside. We need to determine in our policies how long we wait before we make them tie in.

Connie Alexander: The town meeting vote referred to B2. It is on the record. Is that a problem?

Jared Meader: The explanation Jay gave me was that when you want to add a street sewer connection, it doesn't make it its own district. That is how you reference it in the article.

Jeff Pratt: What is on 317 Sate Rd? Do we have the flow for this and has it been approved?

Jared Meader: That property is Bob Sawyer's house and property behind it. The property had not previously been developed. He's in the watershed and we have enough flow to add it into the district.

John Best: Jared you told Connie & me when we met with you, that both the Knobnocket & the Sawyer properties were going to be conditional to concessions the property owners were willing to make as far as system refinements.

Jared Meader: Not conditional. I can't make it conditional, that would be illegal. I said they were willing to participate. If at the end of the day they pull out, they pay a betterment like everyone else. I can't stop them from tying in.

John Best: Why are we tying in Sawyer for a single-family home and we knocked out Colonial Drive?

Jared Meader: We would need to pipe the road and build another lift station for approximately ½ to ¾ quarters of a million dollars. I am trying to be fiscally responsible. Sawyer's is an easy addition.

Jeff Pratt: Motion to approve the articles "To add Parcels to the Centralized Wastewater Sanitary Sewer Collection System Service" from the email Melinda sent all of us at 3:15pm.

Second: Dan Seidman

Vote:

Dan Seidman: (aye)

John Best: (abstain)

Connie Alexander: (aye)

Chris Scott: (aye)

Motion passed (3-1-0)

Article 9

Jared Meader: This is a rough draft. Everyone can review, discuss and give input. Please make your changes on the document and then send it back to me.

Dan Seidman: I agree with mixed use flow delegation. It shows developers that there will be flow.

Connie Alexander: Yes, and it preserves Tisbury's financial structure. Also, we need more restrooms in town. That is something to consider too.

Chris Scott: Does the public allocation already take into account the town pump out?

Jared Meader: It did not. We are adding another pump out. I will review the average gallonage. We don't receive septage from boat pump outs, it's from the town. They are looking at adding another station at Tashmoo.

Jeff Pratt: Does any discussion about public restrooms and public pump out need to be specifically laid out in this policy.

Jared Meader: No, that would be under town Municipal use.

Jeff Pratt: Lets continue meeting via Zoom until after May 11, then schedule in person meetings.

Motion to adjourn.

Dan Seidman: Seconds

Vote:

Jeff Pratt: (aye)

Dan Seidman: (aye)

Connie Alexander: (aye)

Chris Scott: (aye)

John Best: (aye)

Next meeting is Wednesday March 22, 2023 @ 4:00pm via Zoom