
APPENDIX B: VALLEY REPORTER ARTICLES AND LETTERS

Letter to the editor by the Wastewater Committee members, page 16 from the September 16, 2010 issue of the Valley Reporter

We
ore
han

out
not
ure
st a
the
are
ely
and
and
ale
the
be
ree
our

and
that
or a
&A
on
, at
ues,
ose
find
an
sive

ield
dge

Waitsfield survey

To The Editor:

As part of the Town of Waitsfield Planning Commission's "Assessment of Decentralized Wastewater Options," this week property owners in historic Waitsfield village and Irasville will receive a brief voluntary survey.

As background to the assessment, in the fall 2008, the majority of Waitsfield voters voted against a taxpayer-supported

centralized wastewater system. Known as a "big pipe" system, that plan is now in Waitsfield's past.

This fall, to plan for the economic sustainability and future environmental health of Waitsfield, the town is continuing the process of evaluating wastewater needs and options in historic Waitsfield village and Irasville. The focus of this effort is to determine if decentralized, or "small pipe," wastewater solutions

are an appropriate fit for our community.

Decentralized wastewater approaches have proven successful in many communities due to the flexibility of their application. These systems can include traditional septic tank-leachfield systems of varying sizes, wastewater treatment systems shared between properties, and/or systems with advanced treatment. New technologies have created some options previously unavailable to us.

As the first step in this planning process, we are conducting a brief voluntary survey of property owners in historic Waitsfield village and Irasville. Known as the Assessment of Decentralized Wastewater Options, this survey will help the town assess the health and capability of current wastewater systems and also accurately gauge future needs.

The survey and planning process is being fully funded by a municipal planning

grant. All information provided through the survey is intended for use only by the Planning Commission Wastewater Committee and its consultants and will not be provided to any regulatory entities. In any shared reporting done by the committee, information will be summarized or combined and will not include the names of individual landowners or individual property locations.

The committee is striving for 100 percent cooperation to provide the basis for informed and accurate decision-making. For more information please email wastewaterPC@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

**Town of Waitsfield Planning
Commission Wastewater
Committee:
Drew Simmons
Darryl Forrest
Peter Lazorchak
Robin Morris
Joshua Schwartz**

View More

Letter to the editor by the Wastewater Committee members, page 14 from the October 21, 2010 issue of the Valley Reporter

ter Welch when he wrote the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Act and the subsequent Home Star Energy Retrofit Act. The work to make homes more energy efficient benefits Vermont: it puts people to work, it saves homeowners money on their energy bills, and it helps us reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The legislation Peter wrote will meet those needs.

I urge you to get out and vote on November 2 to send Peter Welch back to Washington for another term.

Brad Cook
Warren

Deadline extended

To The Editor:

If you are a property owner in historic Waitsfield Village or Irasville, the Town Planning Commission Wastewater Committee has extended the deadline for incoming surveys regarding “decentralized

wastewater options” to next Friday, October 29, 2010.

The original survey was sent out in September with the goal of helping the town assess the health and capability of current wastewater systems and also accurately gauge future needs for decentralized (aka “small pipe”) systems. The survey and planning process is being fully funded by a Municipal Planning Grant.

For more information regarding the process or to request a new copy of the survey, please email wastewaterPC@gmail.com or contact the town office at 496-2218.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Town of Waitsfield Planning Commission Wastewater Committee: Drew Simmons, Darryl Forrest, Peter Lazorchak, Robin Morris, Joshua Schwartz

Waitsfield creates task force to revisit question of municipal septic

With its municipal water project funded and at least partially underway, pending unresolved legal issues, Waitsfield turned its planning attention once again to the issue of municipal septic. At the behest of the town planning commission, the town applied for and received a grant to investigate the feasibility of decentralized wastewater treatment options for Irasville and Waitsfield Village.

This summer the town received an \$8,450 grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs to fund the study and hired Stone Environmental to conduct the study.

Drew Simmons, a member of the planning commission and chair of the commission's wastewater committee, said that the grant will be used to look at existing wastewater needs in the village and Irasville, soil types and disposal options and the needs of home and business owners.

A year ago, the planning commission went to the town select board and asked whether the planning commission should be looking at what is next for municipal wastewater treatment, since a proposal for a large centralized wastewater system was turned down by voters two years ago.

The town formed a planning commission wastewater committee, which includes

Simmons, Joshua Schwartz of the Mad River Valley Planning District, former planning commissioner Peter Lazorchak, Darryl Forrest, who serves on the town's water task force, and Robin Morris, who serves on the water task force and is a former planning commissioner.

The subcommittee applied for and received the grant and is now working towards identifying the town's future plans for dealing with wastewater in The Valley.

Simmons said the issue of wastewater must be dealt with to maintain a sustainable economy in The Valley.

Task force members hope to come up with some solutions that are less costly than a large centralized system and that are better suited to the community's needs.

Excerpt from “The top ten stories of 2010 in review”, (at right) by Lisa Loomis and Kara Herlihy, page 24 from the December 30, 2010 issue of the Valley Reporter.



ont Wood Pellets

ervice
warmth & security to
nt. Local & family owned.

performance.

Rinnai

ury 244-8667

Article regarding a public meeting presenting the results of this project, by Lisa Loomis, page 1 from the January 20, 2011 issue of the Valley Reporter.

Waitsfield PC to present wastewater study result

Options for bringing municipal wastewater to Waitsfield via a decentralized system will be presented by the Waitsfield Planning Commission at a public hearing next month.

The February 1 public meeting will be held at the Big Picture Theater in Waitsfield on February 1 at 7 p.m. Last summer and fall the planning commission worked with Stone Environmental of Montpelier to undertake a study of wastewater options for Waitsfield Village, with an emphasis on exploring whether a series of smaller, decentralized systems could work for Waitsfield, opposed to a single, larger, "big pipe" solution.

Waitsfield voters rejected a single, large, municipal wastewater system three years ago when such a system was presented along with the municipal water project that was approved and is under construction (and litigation) right now.

At the February 1 meeting, the Waitsfield Planning Commission will present the findings of a fall 2010 committee study, "Assessment of Decentralized Wastewater Options: A survey of needs, capacity and solutions for Historic Waitsfield Village and Irasville, Vermont." Funded by a municipal planning grant, the study evaluates the needs and capacity for "small pipe" decentralized wastewater

treatment options in Irasville and historic Waitsfield Village. The effort was initiated by the Waitsfield Select Board as a method to evaluate viable alternatives to the "big pipe" taxpayer-supported centralized wastewater system, which was voted down in spring 2008.

Launched last August, the study was prepared by Stone Environmental and was overseen by a volunteer subcommittee of the Waitsfield Planning Commission. The study updates the existing 2001 survey of water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the town, re-evaluates wastewater treatment and dispersal capacity and needs in light of the municipal water project now under construction, and evaluates wastewater management options.

The final report and executive summary, both of which will be available at the meeting, incorporate results from a homeowner/landowner survey of the study area, detailed maps that spotlight capacity and need, and recommended next steps.

—LAL