

Meeting Minutes
For
Town of Harwich
Wastewater Implementation Committee (WIC)
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

WIC Members: Peter deBakker (Chair), Chris Harlow, Allin Thompson, and Heinz Proft.

Others: Chris Clark, Michael MacAskill, Dan Pelletier, Ann Howe, and Noreen Donahue.

CDM Smith: David Young

Introduction:

The Harwich WIC held a meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Harwich town offices to review and discuss issues related to the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). Meeting was taped to be played on Harwich cable access.

A summary of items discussed is provided below in order of the agenda.

Summary of Discussion Items:

1. Call To Order

Chairman de Bakker called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Public Comment

Town Clerk reminded the WIC members to complete their ethics training course by April 7th.

3. Discuss and approve WIC minutes dated February 15, 2017.

Minutes from February 15, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. Allin Thompson made a motion to approve and second by Chris Harlow. Approved unanimously. Chair indicated he would get the approved minutes posted on the town website.

4. Review CDM Smith Invoice.

Heinz Proft indicated he received an invoice from CDM Smith last week in the amount of \$7,837.77 and that he had processed it. Balance remaining in the \$40,000 contract is \$13,483.40.

5. Tracking visits to WIC information through Harwich Home Page

Peter deBakker and Caleb Ladue indicated there have been 200 plus “hits” to the town website wastewater button now on the Home Page. Hits tend to spike after new info is posted. All felt that was a positive step.

6. Update on Chatham IMA.

Chris Clark noted the two Boards of Selectmen held a joint meeting Thursday night March 16th in Chatham to discuss the proposed draft Inter-Municipal Agreement. Each Board is now reviewing the document. Harwich will be holding a public meeting on this topic likely on March 27th.

7. Continued discussion of Wastewater Outreach Program and Brochures

David Young reviewed the latest draft of the 4-page brochure that had been emailed to WIC members and hard copies handed out during this meeting. Focus is on town meeting article components of wastewater program. He received several comments at the last WIC meeting and the majority of those have been incorporated into this latest draft.

Most committee members thought this version was well done and hit upon the key aspects. Dan Pelletier thought some of the “Why Pleasant Bay first” bullets could be removed if we needed more room at some point. Ann Howe expressed concern that East Harwich residents will not support unless the open space/ lower density is addressed by Selectmen first. Allin Thompson noted the current program is limited to existing zoning and water use.

Mike MacAskill indicated the Selectmen had not decided yet on how to present the wastewater articles and won't until the next BOS meeting. Some believe the town should only request money for the IMA with Chatham and the design fee for Pleasant Bay sewers. Perhaps use a menu (separate articles) for other components such as Cold Brook natural nitrogen attenuation project and Hinckleys Pond restoration. Thus, the 4-page brochure is on hold until that decision is finalized.

8. Discuss CWMP presentations to Town Boards and Committees.

Peter de Bakker updated his plan to have two members from WIC present to key town boards and committees. He distributed an updated spreadsheet of committees and their meeting dates. Heinz Proft is covering the Pleasant Bay Alliance and Waterways Committees. Chris Clark is presenting to the Men's Club March 10th. Peter de Bakker and David Young are presenting to the Board of Health and Planning Board on March 14th. Peter is also doing a booth at the New Comers Club on March 20th. David Young recently presented to the Harwich Department Heads on February 28th.

There was some discussion about potential other ways to distribute the various brochures. Members will review and report back at the next meeting.

An editorial in the February 23rd Chronicle praised the 12 page Education Handbook.

Also still need to schedule a Community Meeting at a location in or near the Pleasant Bay watershed prior to town meeting.

9. Other/ New Business.

Chris Clark reviewed the letter he received from MassDEP Commissioner Marty Suuberg answering the question about “What if Harwich doesn’t fund the implementation of the wastewater program?” Letter was dated February 21st and essentially says MassDEP will change Title 5 to require every homeowner located in a nitrogen sensitive watershed to install a nitrogen removal system. David Young noted that alternative was evaluated in the Harwich CWMP and at about \$20,000 to construct and \$2,500 to annually operate, that scenario was twice as costly as the town’s recommended program.

Mr. Young also noted that Dennis, Harwich and Yarmouth will be conducting a joint meeting on March 8th at 6:30 pm in Dennis to continue discussion about a community partnership wastewater scenario.

10. Future Meeting – March 15, 2017 at 9:30 am

Adjourn 11:00 a.m.

The above minutes have been completed from notes taken by CDM Smith.

Distribution: Attendees, WIC Members and Chris Clark

Approved:

Date: _____

Peter de Bakker, Chairman