



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409
677 Vermont RTE 7A
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Economic Development Committee

Date: February 10, 2026 (via Zoom)

Call to Order:

Chair Rick Bennett called the meeting to order and asked whether any members had conflicts of interest. None were noted.

Attendance:

Rick Bennett (Chair)

Kate Seaton

John Verrochi

Additional Zoom participants joined for portions of the meeting.

Agenda Item: Sewer Feasibility Report

- Rick Bennett reported that the sewer feasibility project had reached approximately the 60% design stage.
- John Verrochi summarized a recent meeting with the consultants, Select Board members, and other stakeholders.
- The committee discussed that the proposed system would function more as a shared wastewater treatment system serving a limited number of users rather than a traditional municipal sewer system.
- Preliminary estimates indicated project costs in the multi-million-dollar range, with comparable projects costing approximately \$6 million.
- Members expressed concern that the anticipated benefits would not justify the projected expense for the limited number of connections.
- Existing residents were viewed as unlikely participants absent septic failures or significant incentives.
- The consultants will complete the final study phase, resulting in a shovel-ready project should future grant opportunities arise.
- The completed feasibility work may provide value to future developers considering housing projects near Cole Hall.
- The committee discussed the possibility of leveraging unused wastewater capacity at the school for future development.
- Members also discussed potential affordable housing partnerships and the possibility of

using the completed study to inform future bids and development proposals.

Actions/Next Steps:

- Complete the sewer feasibility study through the final phase.
- Retain the completed study for future grant applications and development planning.
- Continue discussions regarding housing development opportunities associated with the Cole Hall property.

Adjournment: