

Town of Shaftsbury
Sewer Feasibility Study Committee
Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5 p.m.
Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 5 p.m. Present were committee members Dave Mance (chair), Eamon Mulligan, Gail Tiffany, and Mike Cichanowski. Also present was town administrator Paula Iken

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Discussion, guidance from Dufresne Group

Mr. Mance said the committee's goal for the day is to delimit the area of study for the Dufresne Group. He said the zoning administrator researched permits for failed systems in the Village and found very few. Mr. Mulligan said he researched failed systems in the Village using the State's database and likewise found only a few. Ms. Tiffany knew of none.

Mr. Mance said the wastewater situation could be viewed in terms of immediate needs and long term opportunities.

The immediate need could be for expansion of current uses. The four corners area would qualify. As for long term opportunities, such as accessory dwellings and affordable housing, Mr. Mance said Holliday Drive and Sycamore Lane might be more than the Town wants to get involved in. He said there are several small lots on Main St., but there are large lots as well which could offer future opportunities. He wondered whether, then, the study shouldn't focus on studying what can be done with the new lots the town has purchased adjacent to Cole Hall.

Mr. Cichanowski agreed with that focus. Mr. Mance mentioned that the wastewater survey done in 2005 found there wasn't much appetite for a wastewater system unless it directly benefited that landowner. Ms. Tiffany thought it made sense to limit the study scope to the Cole Hall complex, for several reasons.

Mr. Mance thought the town could take care of some of the major steps involved in creating a community system, including securing permits and easements, but that users would then be required to literally "buy in" by sharing in the costs of building it or running it.

Mr. Mulligan wondered how many bedrooms are being served in the four corners area and where the septic systems are located. Mr. Mance suggested looking at use and capacity at the school as well. Ms. Tiffany wondered about the fire house. Mr. Mance said the real key for the study is to figure out if there is an opportunity for a community system on the new town-owned lands and, if so, what it would support. The group sketched the outline of the study area. Mr. Mance will scan and share that document.

4. Next steps

Mr. Cichanowski noted that two other committees are in some ways dependent on the work of the sewer committee. Lillie West arrived at this point. Mr. Mulligan asked about

locating existing infrastructure that might complicate the installation of a community system. Mr. Mance reiterated the discussion for Ms. West. Mr. Cichanowski noted that the new system could serve Cole Hall, and that the town could therefore contribute to the cost. It wouldn't be like the town was asking residents to finance everything.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the minutes of the May 9 meeting. Ms. West seconded the motion which passed 5-0-0.

5. Other Business

None was mentioned.

6. Schedule next meeting and adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 5:30 p.m.