

Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee
September 16, 2010
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

John Shipman, Freedom, OWC
Pat Jones, Ossipee
David Little, Tamworth
Jay Buckley, Madison
Anne Cunningham, Freedom

Al Levesque, Effingham
Cimbria (GALA etc)
Blair Folts, GMCG
Eric Senecal, LRPC

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. Anne C. was new to the group.

REVIEW OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

John S. reviewed the August meeting minutes. Anne C. discussed initial attempts to coordinate an informal/non-public gathering of Planning Board chairpersons. She will attempt to do this again. Al. L. said that the Effingham chair is busy. John S. clarified that a designee would be fine, that the chair need not attend, and that up to 2 or 3 members of each board could attend depending on the size of the board, as long as no quorum was established.

Eric S. said he would post recent minutes and agendas to the LRPC website.

APO UPDATES

Effingham

Al L. said a sub-committee was officially formed at the last PB meeting. It has 7 members with LRPC advising. The sub-committee will officially meet for the first time on Saturday, September 25. Jay B. said that in forming the sub-committee, it was difficult for the Effingham planning board to turn down a free offer to draft an APO. Jay said that some resistance was expressed by the board and that no planning board member will be on the sub-committee. The Board saw a preliminary draft and said they would like to meet back shortly. Jay B/ said that it seemed like there was a good chance that something could be ready for town meeting. However, there is need for better understanding of what is prohibited and why.

Ossipee

Ossipee has not formed a subcommittee but is working as a planning board on reviewing the draft ordinance. Pat J. pointed out that there is a history of new regulations in recent years, citing the cell tower and small wind generation ordinances, and that the aquifer ordinance revision is not a new idea to the Planning Board.

Jay B. asked if the Ossipee Planning Board is aware of the town's dependence on drinking water that comes from Effingham. Pat J. expressed that they are very aware. She said that the upcoming Planning Board meeting on 9/22 would be interesting. The Board has had the draft in their hands and would be openly discussing it. Eric S. will be present to answer questions. Ossipee is working off existing aquifer ordinance. Major edits include adding performance standards as the model recommends. Enforcement additions are new. Prohibited uses are changed in how they are divided up. Most sections have been kept as they are. They have referenced new DES updates, new information on wetlands and new map.

Freedom

Anne C. thinks she has five votes for the APO. She explained that the Board started out the process by voting to work on the APO as a Board. However, they got stuck on the Performance Standards. A subcommittee was formed at the August meeting which includes the code enforcement officer. Eric S. had helped Anne C. answer some questions regarding impervious surface thresholds and conditional uses.

Anne C. shared a reference document that the subcommittee had put together. It contained pertinent background information on each of the Performance Standards along with the sources for where that information can be accessed. The purpose of the document is to help explain what is really at stake.

The Planning Board has preliminarily approved the Prohibited Uses listed in the draft. Freedom has placed language pertaining to the exemption for residential uses in the purpose section of the APO. However, they want to make sure the APO is applicable to home occupations, as in Freedom, many of these uses verge on light industrial in nature. Freedom has five zones and only one is light commercial. There was some discussion as to how to better define residence versus home occupation. David L. from Tamworth offered some suggestions based on his work in Tamworth.

Eric S. said he would check with DES about how home occupations are treated in the model and any recommendations that DES might have. David L. explained Tamworth's draft defines a private residence a building, dwelling unit, or property used for human habitation, whether seasonal or permanent, and where no commercial or industrial use occurs. David L. said that the planning board would consider the parking of commercial vehicles as a commercial use. .

Tamworth

David L. said that they had a completed draft which was sent to the Planning Board. He pointed out how references have been annotated in the draft for explanatory purposes. He said that it was possible that an initial public hearing would be scheduled for the second Wednesday in October. He will check into the earliest possible date for a public hearing and make sure they are within that time period. David did also check

with Pierce at DES regarding wellhead protection areas as he would like to see those named in the ordinance.

Madison

Jay B. briefly discussed his interest in adding some prohibitions to the current ordinance. He emphasized that strategizing outreach will be key. He said voters will certainly have questions and that subcommittees need to be prepared to address them.

Jay B floated the idea of doing a bulk mailing (as a non-affiliated group, such as 'Friends of the _____ Planning Board'. Something like a three page flyer with the rationale and benefits of an APO outlined. David L. suggested a mailing to residents that have voted recently, rather than to all residents, in order to conserve resources.

Cimbria spoke about attending the Ground Water Commission Meetings and HB 1353. Eric and LRPC will be at the September 22 meeting in Moultonborough. The group agreed that while it is an important issue to be discussing it is separate from this aquifer work and might be better addressed in the future. Cimbria will be presenting a movie about groundwater issues on 27th of September at Conway Library, Living downstream. 1

NEXT STEPS - TASKS

Eric S. discussed some of the contamination cost data available from DES. He wanted to know what people thought would be useful. DES's 2009 Petroleum Contamination Cleanup Fund report suggested that contamination cleanup revenues are declining and that the fund may not be a reliable resource for ongoing contamination cleanup. Some thought that it might be useful to explain that the costs borne by DES over the last 20 years might be costs facing municipalities in the future. Jay B. also pointed out that the costs paid by the cleanup fund over the last 20 years are probably substantially higher now than they were 10-20 years ago.

David L. pointed out that a town in VT holds a Town Eating Day prior to Town Meeting Day. It is a neighborly event where people can discuss items on the warrant in a casual environment...while eating! Blair thought it sounded like a great idea.

A general strategy for outreach was discussed in light of the fact that the public input schedule/process would differ among towns.

- John S. offered to take an initial stab at compiling some costs/benefits/rationale/facts information into a single sheet for a mailing. This would probably be for a bulk mailing just prior to Town Meeting.
- Anne C. offered to draft an informative postcard alerting residents to initial public hearings with a dateline that can be filled in.

- Someone from each town will obtain the registered checklist showing people who voted in the last general election.
- Eric will draft an article discussing the history and progress to date on this effort for submission to the *Sun* and *Independent* by the end of October.
- Blair and David discussed creating a strategy for writing letters to the Editor in the Conway Daily Sun to get folks more engaged prior to the vote
- Tara and Eric will try to schedule some air time on WMWV's 'Drive Time' program in February to discuss the APO efforts. This could be done by Eric, Blair, Tara, John, and Ruth (non-public officials)
- Eric will look into discussing the project on NHPR's *Front Porch*. Jay B. pointed out that if it affects ~12,000 Ossipee Watershed residents, it may be viewed as a worthy story by NHPR

Next OASC meeting October 22 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The meeting will focus on short updates then mostly on next steps and strategies to “get out the vote.”