

Present: Chairman Sandy Hislop, John Frink, Denis Hebert, Robert Simms, Peggy Lamson, Barbara Hill, Chris Cross, Cosmas Iocovozzi, Planner Tom Morgan.

Meeting was opened at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes of meeting held 5-13-02, were amended to show that the standing water reported by John Frink is at the intersection of Patterson Lane and the Industrial Corridor Road (ICR) not Old Dover Rd.

Also, the Wong property on River Rd was given a variance for a minimum lot size not a lot line adjustment.

Minutes as amended were accepted on a motion by Barbara Hill, seconded by John Frink.

Correspondence:

Copy of letter 5-13-02 from owners of the Newington Inn to Dept of Transportation re: Exit 4 project.

Meeting Memo 2-19-02 from NH Wetlands Bureau re: proposed retail development in Greenland.

Notice of Training Series for Municipal Boards from Rockingham Planning Commission.

Regional Outfall Sewer:

Frank Underwood of Underwood Engineering was present for an informal discussion on a proposed feasibility study to determine possible solutions for disposal of treated waste water. Also present was Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director of the Strafford County Regional Planning Commission.

Peggy Lamson pointed out that this proposal may have been studied and discussed but Newington was not aware of it until very recently and this concerned her.

Mr Underwood explained that some small communities are having a hard time meeting the State's requirements for quality of treated waste and there has been some discussion of developing a regional treatment plant. Each municipality would maintain their own treatment plant but would discharge the treated water to a central plant for further treatment and then be discharged out in the ocean.

One possible location for the central plant was in the vicinity of the Piscataqua River in Newington.

The plan is to meet with the individual towns to discuss the rough concept and gather information and list the various advantages or disadvantages.

Cynthia Copeland spoke describing the initial scope of work proposed by both Strafford and Rockingham Planning Commissions and the various phases of the study to determine what is best for the region.

She noted that neither Planning Commission had taken a position on the proposal but are open to looking at and discussing the proposal.

Kay Akerley, Fox Point, asked how the proposal got started and Mr Underwood stated that as the various municipalities apply to renew their licenses and the State requirements becomes more stringent the Planning Commissions and his company receive request for assistance and regional treatment plants have worked well in other areas..

Kay also asked if the proposed treatment plant would be considered a utility and therefore subject to take land by eminent domain. Mr Underwood stated that it would be considered a utility.

Barbara Hill stated that she had grave concerns about any outfall into the Piscataqua, that at least 17 communities already discharge upriver and the “flushing action” of the river is not good - she asked if the Piscataqua was the only option and was told that there are other options to be studied.

Jack Pare, Little Bay Rd, voiced his concern that the tertiary treatment would be in one location - that lack of nutrients at present treatment locations could kill the plant life and reduce the natural treatment process of the river. He hoped that this would be taken into account during the study of the ecology.

Peggy Lamson voiced her concerns about the proposal and asked where the funds were coming from. Mr Underwood stated that it would be a combination of Federal ,State and contributions from some towns within the region - that studies made for the individual towns had prompted the proposal to study the region.

Nancy Cauvet, Newington Road, asked about other possible locations for the plant and was told that there is none definite to date.

Leonard Thomas, Newington Road, noted that the eel grass in the bay is just coming back from previous discharge of pollutants and he is concerned about keeping the bays healthy.

Gail Pare asked if the studies would include the towns on the Maine side of the Piscataqua. Mr Underwood said they were not in the plan - but agreed that they may have to be included.

Kay Akerley asked what the driving force is behind this proposal - is the State Department of Environmental Services requiring this study. Mr Underwood stated that the DES has not ordered the study but will be consulted - that with all the growth in the region you cannot put all this treated water into the ground without problems.

John Frink questioned the possible change to zoning (lot sizes) with the availability of sewage treatment promoting growth. Mr Underwood stated that each town should decide how they wanted to develop. The planned studies will include the costs to each town to upgrade their treatment plants vs cost of regional treatment.

Noted that Newington, as usual, would not derive much benefit from this proposal but only become a donator of land.

Chris Cross suggested that the solution is out in the ocean and why not, for tertiary treatment, send directly to the ocean. Mr Underwood stated that the study may determine that, that is the solution.

Dick Spinney, Fox Point Rd, stated that he would like the School Funding problems straightened out before anything else. He also, asked about the size of the proposed pipe. Mr Underwood was not sure but noted that pipe would carry only treated water - no solids - and that uses for the water such as watering golf courses, was being looked into.

Chairman Hislop noted that past studies conducted for a proposed nuclear power plant had shown that the discharge would thermally pollute the bay because of the inadequate flushing action in the river.

Denis Hebert stated that it was bad PR to put lines on a map without discussing with the land owners and abutters involved and he hoped in future everyone would be kept more informed. He added that he agrees with studying the concept and would take an unbiased view.

Cynthia Copeland spoke about the initial suggestion of Underwood Engineering for a feasibility study and that now is the time to separate the project from this private company and have the Planning Commissions and municipalities go forward with the plans for the long term objective.

Chairman Hislop stated that the Town must be kept informed of any progress in this proposal.

Woodbury Avenue Corridor:

The balance of the meeting was spent studying the long range planning for Woodbury Avenue and identifying the areas that must be addressed to keep both pedestrian and vehicles moving in a safe manor.

Tom Morgan provided a large scale plan of the avenue and advised the Board to look ahead at least 20 years.

Barbara Hill advised that UNH was looking at the possibility of off-campus parking and any plan should provide bus stop areas.

Chris Cross noted that he would like the plans to include some way to prevent having traffic lights every few yards as on the Portsmouth end of Woodbury Ave.

At Tom Morgan suggestion the Board agreed that each issue should be handled separately and agreed to address bike and pedestrian paths at this time and proceeded to mark on the plan the suggested locations - noting that any plan must be approved by the State Dept of Transportation.

Denis Hebert stated that a "nice-to-have" thing in the future would be a pedestrian walkway along the river.

Board agreed to continue the review of Woodbury Ave at another work session and on a motion by Barbara Hill, seconded by Cosmas Iocovozzi, adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Pat Main
Secretary