

ANNUAL MEETING
North Queensbury Waste Water Disposal District #1
July 17, 2021 10:00 - 11:20 a.m

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Wrigley, Barbara Simms, Sal Ervolina, Bud Maddocks, Rich Gordon, Sarah Landers, Kate McCarthy and Len Simms (non-voting member)

OTHERS ATTENDING: Supervisor John Strough and numerous District #1 residents

Chairperson Alan Wrigley welcomed all District #1 residents and asked advisory board present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of our February 16, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT - SAL ERVOLINA

With \$4.65 interest and \$655 collected in taxes, our balance as of May 31, 2021 was \$24,377.49. Sal explained that last year's District #1 tax levy was \$10 per cottage and \$5 per vacant parcel. Two households received reimbursements for pump-outs.

2021 TAX LEVY

Alan suggested that the tax levy amount remain the same for this year but noted that the tax levy might change or be eliminated at some future date depending upon possible septic system monitoring/inspection changes currently being discussed by the town and county. A motion was made to leave the tax levy the same for the coming year. It was unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Sal Ervolina and Alan Wrigley were unanimously re-elected to a three year term.

ELECTION OF ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

Alan Wrigley - Chair

Matt O'Hara - Vice Chair

Sal Ervolina - Treasurer

Barbara Simms - Secretary

The proposed slate of officers were unanimously elected to a one year term.

SEPTIC SYSTEM FUNDING

Alan reminded the audience of the New York State Grants for septic system replacement or upgrading. Funds of up to \$10,000 are available. In addition, there are two area banks providing low or no interest financing. Residents were urged to take advantage of these programs since The FUND (now LGA) has suspended their funding this year.

UPDATED SEPTIC SYSTEMS: REPORT

There are currently 24 new or updated systems in District #1. With the 12 newer systems that existed before district formation, 36 of the 60 septic systems around the bay (57%) are now adequately documented and functioning.

We would like to hear from District #1 residents when they update their system so we can keep District records up to date.

INFORMATION FROM TOWN OF QUEENSBURY SUPERVISOR JOHN STROUGH

Supervisor Strough stated that Ethan Gaddy is the Warren county employee administering the NYS Septic Grant program. Applications may be submitted to him. \$340,000 is available in grant money. Dave Hatin is the contact person at the town for septic permits.

Supervisor Strough outlined the process for the adoption of a local law. The draft law will be revised as the Supervisor and the Board receive more input. After initial Town Board and Advisory Board approval, a Public Hearing date will be set where public comments can be made. At that point, the Town Board may adopt the provisions of the law.

UPDATE FROM LAKE GEORGE WATERKEEPER, CHRIS NAVITSKY

Since Chris was unable to attend, this information was shared by Barbara Simms. Eleven clay tiles (approximately 6x6) have been placed throughout the bay for the second year. Nine are along the east side and 2 are on the west side. An interim report on the collected algae is scheduled to be published later this summer. Chris reported that less algae was observed than had been anticipated but more was observed as they went further into the bay. The tiles are placed at a depth of one meter and four meters. This is a change from having the tiles hanging from docks. They are now laying on the lake bottom.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Alan suggested a fall meeting and October 19th was set for the next Advisory Board meeting.

July 16, 2022 was set as our 2022 annual meeting date in conjunction with the DBA annual meeting.

COMMENTS: TOWN OF QUEENSBURY SUPERVISOR JOHN STROUGH

Alan introduced Supervisor Strough and thanked him for joining us to discuss the proposed amendments to the District #1 law. Supervisor Strough summarized several Town of Queensbury initiatives:

ROCKHURST

A 10 million dollar grant is being submitted involving individual ETU's (enhanced treatment units) for 51 homes

on the Rockhurst peninsula, with the effluent being pumped to an infiltration site away from the lake.

GRANT TO CREATE A LAKE GEORGE ACTION PLAN

This grant, currently being prepared, will identify problems and seek a different funding plan for the Lake George Park Commission.

BOAT INSPECTION: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

The Town of Queensbury contributes to this program

NEW YORK STATE SEPTIC GRANTS

Supervisor Strough was instrumental in getting Warren county involved in this program. The Warren county Planning Department administers it.

LOW IMPACT DESIGN (LID)

The Town is working with Waterkeeper, Chris Navitsky on this initiative. A change in waterfront zoning to make it more environmentally friendly is being discussed. A public hearing would take place before any changes were made.

PROPOSED DRAFT LEGISLATION

Supervisor Strough provided some background. The Advisory Committee had requested a way for our district to move forward with the goals as stated in the District #1 "Map, Plan and Report". Those goals being:

1. Educate homeowners
2. Address any immediate problems
3. Identify wastewater treatment strategies to meet future needs

4. Supervise the siting, design construction and installation of new or re-vamped systems
 5. Maintain a database on the location and specifications of individual systems
 6. Establish and enforce a monitoring and a maintenance schedule for existing systems
- (The complete text can be found on pages 6-7 of the District #1 “Map, Plan and Report”)

The Town attorney determined that the district had the lawful authority to monitor the onsite waste water treatment systems, which led to the drafting of the document before us today.

Supervisor Strough reviewed the highlights (all subject to change) of the current draft of the proposed amendments:

1. Inspect all onsite waste water systems every 9 years to insure compliance. The final inspection interval and how the cost of the inspections will be paid for (born by the district tax levy or the individual homeowner) is still being debated.
 2. New systems will not be required to be inspected within the first 9 years unless there are indicators of a problem.
 3. The Town may consult with professional engineers as needed to gather more information with the cost born by the district.
 4. Pump outs will be required every three years.
- (Supervisor Strough acknowledged that the newer ETU’s

may not need to be subjected to the same pump out schedule as conventional systems and this distinction needs to be reflected in the draft.)

Questions/Comments from audience followed by Supervisor Strough's response-indented

1. *What type of information is the town looking to collect?*

- Age of home, what kind of terrain, what type of system, how far is the system from the lake, how big is the lot. All the parcels in our district are shoreline lots.
- A data base is needed and someone to manage it. For example, the Town of Lake George has a "Risk Assessment Program" developed with Chris Navitsky with weighted criteria in order to determine the highest priority properties.

2. *Septic waste haulers and town employees should be familiar with the Claris (and other ETU) systems since special techniques are needed for pump outs and yearly inspections are already required with a Claris system.*

- Yes. Language regarding ETU's will be added.
- You can share other comments with me through my email johns@queensbury.com
- Currently septic system inspections done by the town cost 275 dollars. It is yet to be determined

how this cost will be paid (homeowner or district) under the amended law.

- The amendment also stipulates what homeowners will need to do prior to the inspection.

3. *Will the town be sending out notices when a pump out is due and, if so, who will do it?*

This will need to be determined.

4. *Our district has existed for seven years. We've hit a wall. We're trying to do things good for the lake. Now, there's state funding. Why should our bay be any different by paying taxes and enacting this legislation?*

This is a bridge. A lake-wide plan will probably not be imminent for 5 or 6 years. We're (our waste water district) an example of what should be done around the lake. The State has recognized our efforts.

5. *What is the town going to do with people who refuse?*

The Town Attorney said that the town does have the authority to enforce and monitor, as stated in the "Map, Plan and Report". It doesn't give the town the right to go on private property but it does give the town the right to tell people what they need to do and to impose fines and penalties. It is possible to take a homeowner to court for non compliance. No fines or penalties are included in this draft legislation at this

time.

6. *Can we look at systems in a three tiered way. 1. Old systems, badly polluting, 2. Old systems that are functioning adequately with the limited use they get, and 3. Newer systems?*

Yes.

7. *How does the Property Transfer Law work?*

If your system is over three years old, it needs to be inspected before it is sold or passed on to a family member. To date, 80% of systems inspected by the Town have needed some work. The Transfer Law only applies to waterfront properties. The seller or buyer can assume responsibility for the work. Even a holding tank needs to be inspected upon transfer. Supervisor Strough indicated that he would look at the appropriateness of the current charge for holding tank inspections (which is the same as the charge for more complex septic systems).

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Alan Wriggley thanked everyone for their attendance, their comments and questions.

The 2021 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.