

Advisory Board Meeting (via Zoom)
Monday, November 30, 2019
4pm-5:15pm

Members Present: Alan Wrigley, Barbara Simms, Sal Ervolina, Rich Gordon, Sarah Landers, Bud Maddocks, Kate McCarthy, Phill Mitchell, Matt O'Hara, Len Simms,

Others Present: John Strough, Robert Hafner

Additional Call in Participants: none

Introduction from Robert Hafner

Bob reviewed the progress of our district so far. He stated that he would be looking to the Town Board for guidance as to how to proceed but he suggested three possibilities:

1. Instituting a system of regulations and fines for non compliance
2. Seeking a court order to allow inspections for those homeowners who do not voluntarily comply
3. Revoking a Certificate of Occupancy

Bob felt that the town would be able to handle the review of approximately 20 properties a year, using a three year rotating schedule.

Input from Supervisor Strough

The town board is very supportive and willing to add language to the code that would better enable our district to have some leverage in moving forward. John would involve Dave Hatin. John asked Bob to draft language for the town to consider. Bob will work on this.

If it's a town code it will be town officials who will be implementing it and enforcing it. Town personnel are trained and certified inspectors. Bob agreed that it should be town employees who should do the inspections.

If the town approves an upgrade to a system, homeowners would not be required to further upgrade a system if new technology came along. John urges board members to check with Dave Hatin regarding the specifics of a system upgrade.

John will schedule a meeting with Bob and Dave Hatin. A draft will be sent to the Advisory Board for our consideration.

Summary of comments from Advisory Board Members

Homeowners should be allowed sufficient time to comply. One to two seasons was discussed.

Communication is critical. District residents need to be aware of the changes being proposed, and their consequences as well as the changes that have occurred in funding sources. It's also advisable to review some of the ways that homeowners can use to begin to address their septic upgrade.

All communication should come from the town.

Motion to proceed

The Advisory Board requests that town attorney, Robert Hafner hold a meeting with Supervisor Strough and Dave Hatin to formulate language which would insure that our district moves forward with inspections and pump outs. The motion was unanimously approved.

Time line

A draft is written, then shared with the board. After the final wording is approved, the process usually takes two months. A public hearing is held and then the local law can be passed. Bob stated that the hardest part is coming up with the draft.

Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 29, 2020 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved as written. One clarification was made regarding the change in the amount of the tax. It was decided that since we had a surplus of funds the amount would be reduced but not eliminated at this time. Having it appear on the tax bill serves as a place holder for the future.

Use of our funds

Paying fully for an inspection and pump out was discussed. There was a discussion about haulers doing inspections.

We will reconvene when John has a draft. A letter to district residents will be composed after we've seen the draft proposal from the town.

Alan thanked Bob Hafner, John Strough and Advisory Board members. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.