

**Ashland Planning Board  
Amended Minutes  
Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Susan MacLeod, chair of the Ashland Planning Board, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present were Carol Fucarile, Mardean Badger, Susan MacLeod, Leigh Sharps and Fran Newton.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tejasinha Sivalingam, Selectboard; David Toth, Alan Cilley, Ernie Paquette, Water & Sewer Commission; Eli Badger, David Ruell, Kathleen DeWolfe, Jane Felton, Christine Cilley; Tom Schwartz and Lauren Frank of Woodard and Curran, designers of the proposed Septage Receiving Station; Steve Bullard of Utility Partners and Rusty Cross, manager of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning Board meeting of September 27, 2017 were reviewed. After extensive review Mardean Badger made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Leigh Sharps seconded the motion. With all votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Susan MacLeod, Chair of the Planning Board, opened the Public Hearing for Case 2017-06, M/L 003-003-002 Site Plan Review for the Water and Sewer Department's proposed Septage Receiving Station. The Public Hearing was opened at 6:30 PM. The land for the Septage Receiving Station is owned by the Town. Tom Schwartz and Lauren Frank of Woodard and Curran presented a Powerpoint presentation of the proposed project. The Planning Board reviewed the application for completeness. The Chair then opened the Public Hearing to public discussion. The following points were discussed:

- This proposed Septage Receiving Station Project will benefit the community and the local ratepayers.
- The Water and Sewer Department has been working for many years on this project. The proposed project has undergone many changes from the original project.
- The purpose of the Septage Receiving Station is to accept and process septage which is then deposited in the lagoons.
- The Station needs machinery to receive and process septage and to direct the sewage from the town directly into the lagoons.
- The headworks need to be upgraded.
- The Station need to be able to get any non-biological solids. This will be done through automation.
- The estimate is that there will be a 20% increase in profits with this proposal
- Presently the headworks is basic. The non-biological solids are driven off premises.

The **design** of the new proposed building:

- The septage and sewage would be processed in a steel building measuring 70' x 37' coated with a substance to decrease corrosion.
- A concrete flume will be constructed. The machinery could be inspected and maintained without interrupting the flow of business at the Station.
- There would be an automated billing system. Each hauler will be issued a card that will allow

he/she to deliver septage. An automated bill will be created.

- There will be solar heating for the building
- There will be an electrical mechanical building that will be separate from the rest of the building. Electrical and heating systems will be separated under one roof.
- There will be a building 50' back and 37' wide with a grit pump to the right of the breezeway
- Grit and non-biological waste are collected in a dumpster and removed from the site.
- The large bay doors on the building are to maintain the large equipment at the Station. The smaller bay doors are to maintain the grit removal equipment.
- There is a perforated drum screen. The solids get caught by the screen, transported to the auger wash where they are dewatered and compacted.
- The Commissioners are traveling to Berwick, ME in the next week or two to observe the machinery they are considering under normal working conditions.
- The Grit Chamber would be made of fabricated steel in concrete. The water flows into a grit chamber to remove sand and stones prior to flowing into the lagoon. The filtered out waste will be washed, de-watered and bagged to be disposed of off-site.

### Costs

- Overall cost of the project is \$2-2.4 million depending on the construction costs and problems that may arise during construction.
- Northern Borders has given the Water and Sewer Department a grant worth \$250,000
- The Water and Sewer Department has on hand in its Capital Reserve an additional \$1.4 million earmarked for the Septage Receiving Station project. The addition of constructing a Flume, and the addition of the equipment mentioned in the proposal will double the costs.
- The Water and Sewer Department can work with the RDA and the State concerning the use of revolving funds. There is the option of low cost loans. For RDA funds and SRF loans the Water and Sewer Department will need to write warrant articles
- The proposed project can be done in phases.
- The Sewer Department has taken in \$425,000 in revenue in 2017. The Sewer Department expects to bring in \$450,000-\$500,000 in 2018. The revenue from Septage Receiving will fund the water and sewer departments as well as the Capital Fund.
- Any increase in rates is due to standard operating costs.
- The construction will be completed by 2020.
- In the \$2.4 million figure is included an amount of \$400,000 in contingency funding.

Mardean made a motion to accept the Site Plan application as complete. Leigh Sharps seconded the motion. With all votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

The Public Hearing was then opened to the public for comment and discussion. A question was raised about any increase in traffic flow on Collins Street to our site and to the lagoons and any wear and tear on the road surface due to the increased traffic flow. It was explained that 25-30 trucks a day use the site. The business is seasonal. At the moment there is no increase in haulers or trips. The Commissioners have concerns about the traffic flow on Collins Street. Much of the traffic flow goes to both the Septage Receiving Station and the Recycling Center. The operating hours of the Septage Receiving Station is 7 AM-7 PM. The Commissioners do not anticipate any change to the schedule.

The question was raised about the existing building which is presently grandfathered and is nonconforming for back setback. The Board of Selectmen may need to waive the setback.

The Planning Board was concerned about water runoff from the new proposed building. They were advised by Woodard and Curran that all drainage and spillage has to have containment per DES

regulations. The septage spillage drains back into the building. Any water runoff from the roof or rear of the proposed building will simply dissipate into the grass at the rear of the building. There can be hay bales put up during construction and geotextile protection around the lagoons is planned during construction. DES will oversee the entire project. There is an existing drainage system just outside the building. In the event of an oil spill there are materials on site to absorb the oil and methods in place to contain the oil. The recommendations of the Planning Board will be sent to the Selectboard for their review. Susan MacLeod closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 PM.

The Zoning Ordinances and amendments were tabled for this meeting. They will be discussed at a future Planning Board work session.

The Building Permit list has been requested from the Town Administrator.

The Water Protection subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 9:30 AM at the Water and Sewer Department office. Amanda Loud of the Conservation Commission will join the discussion.

Leigh Sharps made a motion to adjourn. Carol Fucarile seconded the motion. With all votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

*Minutes submitted by Paula Hancock*