



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

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STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
3:00 P.M.
Shelburne Town Offices

Present: Michael Schramm, Tom DiPietro, Chris Robinson, Lee Krohn, Marty Illick, Chris Davis, Chip Stuell, Dick Elkins, Owen Clay.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.

By consensus and without changes, the agenda was approved.

Motion Illick to approve the minutes of August 13, 2019 as amended (Tom D. was not present at that meeting); seconded by Elkins and approved unanimously.

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

Path forward – continued discussion: proposed changes to the stormwater ordinance and credit manual were reviewed. It was reconfirmed that a two-tiered approach to single family residences would be used (with a one-acre impervious area threshold), and that stormwater utility fees would be phased in (over a three-year timeframe).

Considerable discussion ensued again as to whether ‘hydrologically disconnected lands’ should be netted out from any land-based calculations. It was confirmed that these are essentially already netted out and therefore, factored into the credit manual for water quality based on the Vermont Stormwater Manual. It was also noted that satisfying these criteria would also qualify a property to come under the umbrella of the Town’s MS4 permit, thus relieving the landowner from paying ongoing State permit fees, a further savings. Questions were also asked again about either creating a separate land use category for non-profit institutions, or having a cap on utility fees for non-profits. In response, it was noted that there was no legal basis in this arena for unique or special

treatment of nonprofits, and that the Town was already making an array of changes to help accommodate nonprofits where it was able to do so. Specific examples include:

Increasing the maximum possible credit to 70% (50% is the maximum allowed in other municipal stormwater utilities) as agreed previously;

Increasing the education credit from 10% to 20% (as agreed today); and

Increasing the agricultural credit from 25% to 35% (as agreed today).

The latter two credits are easier and far less costly to achieve, as they do not require engineering analysis nor construction of stormwater management facilities, and by themselves, could potentially qualify the Farms or Museum for a 55% credit at the start.

It was then asked whether the water quality credits might also be increased, and then whether the total possible credit should be increased beyond 70%. These were deemed policy decisions for the Town to make, and were left as open questions to be resolved.

A spreadsheet was reviewed (with reservations admittedly whether a key calculation for all properties was accurate); attempts will be made to correct, update, and redistribute.

It was understood that the goal should be to resolve all matters at the next meeting, hoping that the stormwater utility program and documents can be ratified by the committee as a unified front and recommended for adoption by the Selectboard in time for inclusion in overall budget discussions later this year.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.