

Town of Shelburne  
Stormwater Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2019

Present: Marty Illick, Mike Schramm, Chip Stulen (Shelburne Museum); also Owen Clay (new Operations Manager at Shelburne Farms), Milly Archer, VLCT, Jim Pease, State of VT, Tom DiPietro, City of South Burlington, Chris Robinson, Water Quality Superintendent, Lee Krohn, Town Manager

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

Motion by Illick to approve the minutes of the June meeting as corrected; seconded by Schramm and approved unanimously.

Building on prior recent meetings, consensus was reached on the following key matters:

- Phasing in the utility fees for non-single family residential properties over at least two, and perhaps three years. This would allow ratepayers (particularly nonprofits) to ease into this new expenditure, and recognizes that those pursuing stormwater mitigation improvements and/or new State “three-acre” permits will be incurring expenses on those fronts.
- Increasing the potential maximum credits for educational and agricultural uses/purposes, so that landowners that qualify for these might actually realize measurable benefit (and these two potential credits do not require engineering analysis to prove). Education credit could rise from 10% to 20%; agricultural credit could rise from 25% to 35%.
- Implementing a tiered approach to single-family properties, as discussed previously; the only question being whether to use a one-acre threshold or a half-acre threshold. Either way, it was agreed to stay the course with a two-tier system, but that a three-tier system using both thresholds would be acceptable if deemed more acceptable politically (although no other municipality with a stormwater utility does so).

Questions were raised whether other functional criteria could be included in the credit manual and calculations. Although % of impervious area is already accounted for in the ERU calculations, it was asked whether “proportionality” or intensity of development could also factor in; and/or a “disconnected land” credit that would take such land entirely out of the base calculations, since by definition, truly disconnected land is not draining stormwater off site.

It was also asked whether costs related to municipal administration and similar costs related to public land could be removed from the stormwater utility’s responsibility and budget and kept in the Town operating budget; whether there should also be incentives on the single-family residential side; and whether there should be more categories of land uses

While valid questions and options, these must be balanced against time, need, and achievability. Good progress has been made trying to address concerns raised at the last round of Selectboard hearings, and

time is short to finalize current work and present an updated ordinance to the Selectboard in order to get this adopted and factored into next year's budget discussions.

It will likely be necessary to evaluate an adopted ordinance within the first several years of implementation, and ideas can be reconsidered at that time. Hopefully, as stated as a recent goal, the entire committee can present a united front in support of an updated ordinance that improves fairness and equity, while remaining practical, achievable, and reasonably consistent with other systems that have been in place and deemed workable.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17 at 3:00 P.M.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn