

## **Monkton Planning Commission Meeting Minutes January 19 2016**

Approved 02/02/2016

Present: Wendy Sue Harper, Lee Mahony, Marilyn Cargill, Sam Burr, Ivor Hughes, Peter Close

Absent: Jay Frater

Visitors: Deb Gaynor and Steven Pilcher

The meeting was called to order at 7.45 pm. by Wendy Sue Harper

### **Speaker**

1) Deb Gaynor: The PCP Report

Deb Gaynor as a representative for Monkton on the Pentrachlorophenol Working Group handed out a summary sheet. This provided the MPC with information on the reason, the formation of the group, the process, output and next steps. The group was formed after contamination of a Monkton resident's water source by PCP from construction activity by VELCO when they were replacing electrical power transmission poles. These wooden poles are impregnated with PCP which can leach into the surrounding earth at the base of the pole.

The PSB opened docket #8310 (7/31/14) for a general investigation into the practices of Vermont Utilities in using poles treated with PCP. The working group consisted of State Agencies, Utility companies and other stake holders.

A final report was released 01/11/2016. This may be accessed from the MPC web site. Of interest to readers of the report will be the table of "Proposed Best Management Practices and Rational" Pgs 23-27.

Comments reported by Deb Gaynor.

*The next step in the process will be in the hands of the PSB. They may schedule meetings, hearings, or anything else within their authority under this docket. I'm of the opinion that this is only a very first step; the original charge was to conduct an investigation, and really all this is a summary of the current knowledge and regulatory status, and a set of best management practices to get all the VT utilities on the same page. No investigation was performed by the working group, although both VELCO and ANR did poorly designed studies following the Monkton contamination event. Chuck (Schwer ANR) indicated on the phone to me that he wants to undertake a field investigation, and would like me to review the plans; I told him I'd be happy to do that, and I'm committed to seeing that any further investigations are scientifically valid and will produce usable data. I'm also committed to ensuring that the results of the poorly designed and executed studies do not get used, and do not become part of the literature on pentachlorophenol and utility poles--at least not under the state's credence.*

### **Administrative**

2) Minutes: The minutes of Jan 5<sup>th</sup> were moved by Sam seconded by Marilyn for review. The minutes were passed as amended moved by Lee seconded by Peter. Peter abstained.

3) Mail: Two letters received from the PSB "Orders Lifting the Stay" directing the hearing officer to proceed with the condemnation easement on the Peyser and Broughton Properties brought by VGS.

### **Old Business**

No action on items 4,5, 6, 8, 9 &10

4) Town-wide Planning Survey

5) Updating the UPD

6) Complete Streets:

7) Viewshed Study: Ivor reported that the Viewshed Monkton Map plus photographs could now be access from the Monkton town web site.

8) Town Plan: Priorities Next Steps

9) Resilient Communities

10) Town Plan

### **New Business**

11) Updates from ACRPC: Received a presentation on Act 64 Clean Water Act and ramifications for Municipalities. ANAC.Site visit to the Cota property.

DRB, MEC, Hazard Mitigation Committee, Listers. No reports

12) Other Issues and Member Concerns. None

(Note: Next regular meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Ken Wheeling to attend)

The meeting was adjourned at 9.55 pm. Moved by Lee seconded by Sam passed unanimously.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Ivor Hughes