EPC special meeting

Presentation by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding municipal wastewater potential for Elmore. Including grant opportunities/loan forgiveness.

Attendance: Glenn Schwartz (EPC), Don Valentine(EPC), Kate Sprauge (EPC), Michelle Greeson (EPC), Hans de Boer (EPC), Warren West (Public), Lynnette Claudon (presenting).

Start 5:36pm

Conflict of interest review: Kate is on the board of the Elmore Store/ Community trust board, no other conflicts of interest.

SUBJECT MATTER: Kate gives an overview of the current topic and how we got here. There was funding available through the state and at the same time we had wastewater found in the storm run off. These were coincidental events. Lynnette works for the VT. Environmental conservation and is presenting Communities wastewater disposal solutions.

Presentation overview: There are a variety of size systems to accommodate different size areas/towns. These are all ground soil based systems and the infrastructure includes one building and one disposal field. There are options to pipe to another town, but that only serves to be cost effective if the next town is less than or equal to 1 mile away.

Examples include:
1) Warren Vt. 2003: A 4.6 million project. The town was responsible for 1 million and the rest was through grants. The yearly expense for each household serviced in 2020 was $1180.

2) Brownsville Vt. 2016: Bought a used sewer extension (piping 0.5 mi to another location) = $850/year/house hold served.

3) Rochester Vt. 2018: three soil based sites (all gravity) $340/year

4) Grafton Village Vt.: Started a "Pump out program". Each house must pump out septic every 5 years and show a proof. Approx. $285 every five years.

The average household wastewater cost average between $700-$3000 per house per year. This is based on creation/instillation and then maintenance of a 16 year average life of the type of system.

For this project, funding available for planning mostly loan based but some grants certainly available. There is one option for the initial studies to be covered up to 125k. The initial studies evaluate what is the existing structure, what is the need for a project, assessment of the environmental resources, overall and constraints, analysis of alternatives.
Then they evaluates alternatives, consider the towns values, and eventual development planning. Currently studies are taking 1-2 years to complete with most projects taking between 4-20 years to complete. END OF PRESENTATION.

DISSCUSSION: Discussion about if these systems are built more sturdy than they used to be, so a big storm doesn't wipe them out. Lynette explains that systems are no longer allowed to be in flood planes and are to be built with 100-year flood standards.
Second point of discussion, how many houses would this even take part and how big of a problem, if any, do we have in Elmore.

ACTION: The group decides that the next step is to find the scope of the problem.

1) Is there any wastewater in the lake?
    a. Glenn will find this information from his connections with the Lake Association.
2) At town meeting in March give a brief overview of the concept and conduct an anonymous survey to townspeople identifying if they have septic issues and what kind of septic do they currently have.

Meeting adjourned.