

**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
302 MAIN STREET
OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475-2369
Maple Avenue North Public Education Session
Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

The Town of Old Saybrook Water Pollution Control Authority met on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in the Pasbeshauke Pavilion, Saybrook Point Park, Old Saybrook, CT to conduct a Public Education Session for the neighborhood of Maple Avenue North.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pavel Wilson at 7:00PM.

II. Introduction of WPCA and Staff

Chairman Pavel Wilson, George Gwizd, Nelson Engborg, Elsa Payne, Mike Evangelisti, Chuck Wehrly, Don Lucas, WPCA Coordinator, Robbie Marshall, WPCA Info. Specialist, and members of the public were in attendance.

III. Public Information Session for Maple Avenue North: Video and PowerPoint

IV. Questions and Answers

Q: What happens if you need a new tank now? A: The Health District is aware of the properties that make up the WWMD and the 24" separation to groundwater. So when they do the test holes and determine where the seasonal high groundwater level is they will work with the contractor taking in consideration the 24" separation distance.

Q: How does it tie into the potential funds that will be available? A: The 20-year 2% loan will not be available until the referendum is passed. What is available now is the Small Cities Grant which has income restrictions that must be met. A: The Town has to approve the program. If the vote is no, there is no funding. A: Right now there are no provisions for that, we'll look into it. We're doing about 4 or 5 repairs in Maple Avenue every year.

Q: Why is Banbury Crossing not included in the focus area? A: Banbury Crossing is a condominium complex with a DEP system. They are monitoring it right now.

Q: Maple Avenue is at the end of the program. It is going to be more expensive to replace the system by then. If the funding becomes available is it possible to do it ahead of time? A: Once the ordinance is passed and the program is in place you don't have to wait. A: But you might not get the bulk rate. The Town will be installing

systems in blocks, putting groups of properties out for bid to get better prices. Q: Do we still get the 50%? A: You'll still get the 25% Clean Water Fund and the Town's doing the engineering and design.

Q: What if down the road they decide we don't meet their standards for pollution or we have to have a treatment plant? A: We're in negotiation right now for them to delegate the authority to us; so then you'll be dealing with us, not the State. A: Any new work has to be up to Public Health Code standard, but you don't have to go back and upgrade every time the standard changes. This is the best agreement we could come up with other than putting in the big pipe. We believe this is the best program that could be developed to satisfy the DEP. A: The delegation of authority is for the advanced treatment systems. Other than that you'll be working with the Health District (about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area.)

Q: Is there a significant difference between the 2 chamber system and the single compartment tank. A: Yes. It provides better treatment. The size of the tank is based on the number of bedrooms. 1000 gallons is the smallest size. The Health Code has to look at the potential use of the property.

Q: Does putting in a bigger system give you the ability to increase the size of the house? A: If you meet all the Zoning requirements.

Q: Is there any odor from the AT systems? A: No. We've visited test sites and actually disturbed the sand in sandfilters and there was no odor.

Q: What are the costs for a tank? A: It should cost about \$2000 - \$3000 to replace a tank because the Town will be buying a large number of tanks and getting the best price. It's the same for septic fill. We'll go to suppliers and buy, for example 8000 yards of fill, and get the best price.

Q: Will subcontractors do the work? A: The Town will prepare a bid package for a block of houses, prepare the sketches, and get prices. It will be supervised by the WPCA and the Health District. Most likely it will be local licensed contractors. They will realize the economy of scale as well, when they set up their equipment and do a block of houses.

Q: What do I need to do on a yellow lot? A: He was invited to meet with Don and discuss his property. A: The PHC says you need 495 square feet of leaching for a 3-bedroom house. There are different leaching components that give you different ratings; like Infiltrators.

Q: Can you give me examples of pollution that was found throughout the district? A: We monitored 85 groundwater wells for about 4 years and provided that data to the DEP. It doesn't show gross pollution, but the DEP has maintained that it shows the propensity for pollution and the court has backed them up. There are no big hits, but there are hits. It went to the Supreme Court twice and we lost.

Q: Are you going to be reaching out to people via phone or certified mail? A: No. We send a mailing and put notice in the papers and on the websites. A: But if they miss a meeting, they're welcome to come to the next one. We always have all the maps available.

Q: There was a question about a double lot and having enough room for the system. A: She was invited to meet with the Coordinator and discuss her properties.

Q: Are galleys part of the leaching field? A: Yes. They still use them if there is enough separation distance.

Q: Does the Town have a record of exactly what is on the property? A: No. It is yellow, because of the age of the house and no indication that the tank has been replaced.

Q: Is this PowerPoint available on the Internet? A: Yes. It is on our website, oswpc.org at the second link for Public Education Sessions. It has everything, including the maps.

Q: Can the homeowner do his own upgrades? A: A homeowner can repair a system if it is owner occupied.

Q: I know that ours is less than 24" separation, will we have to bring in hundreds of yards of fill? A: Not necessarily. If the groundwater is at 30", we can put a system in the top 6 inches. There are systems that are a couple of inches thick, and it can be made more aesthetic. There is a system on the market that is one inch thick and it supposedly gets good results.

Q: Is there a timeframe for this whole plan? A: Yes. We will probably start in 2010, maybe at the end of 2009 and finish in about 7 years.

Q: Is there a time limit for compliance? A: We are going to try to do a complete neighborhood at a time and cause less disturbance.

Q: We just put in a new system and I don't see it on the map. A: See the Coordinator after the meeting.

Q: Is there a list of contractors that do this work? A: Yes the Health District has the list.

Q: Do you get information from the pumpout tickets? A: They tell us the condition of the tank, the baffles, and if there is backflow from the leaching system.

We are going to be doing these presentations through to the summer. The next meetings will be posted on our website. So if your neighbors couldn't come, our next meeting is April 1st for Fenwood. We'll have maps available for all of the meetings we've already had. If you have questions or information come down and see us. The better the information, the more accurate we are, and the better the cost estimates will come out.

The meeting ended at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Old Saybrook Water Pollution Control Authority

Robbie A. Marshall
WPCA Recording Clerk