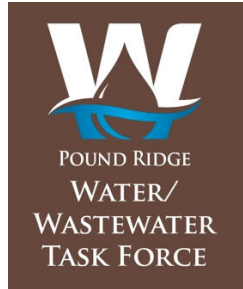


Co-Chairs
James Best
Ali Boak

Members
David Dow
Ted Dowey
Ellen Ivens
Mark Mosolino
Phil Sears
Pete Vogel



Update by the Pound Ridge Water/Wastewater Task Force October 27, 2023

What is the Pound Ridge Water/Wastewater Task Force?

The Pound Ridge Wastewater Task Force was created as an ad-hoc advisory committee to the Pound Ridge Town Board in 2015. It was formed with bipartisan support to assist the Town in developing a long-term wastewater solution for Scotts Corners Business District. Richard Lyman and Ali Boak served as the first co-chairs.

The WWTF Committee Charge includes:

- 1) Review existing studies and determining the need and scope of further study or mapping;
- 2) Work collaboratively to manage the process of defining the project area, conduct a feasibility study and a prepare an engineering report;
- 3) Advise the town on matters related to developing a wastewater strategy;
- 4) Create a multi-pronged funding strategy for the project that includes Federal/State and other sources of grant funding;
- 5) Assist with preparations of grant applications;
- 6) Keep the town board apprised of relevant meetings, trainings, and new developments in technology related to wastewater treatments;
- 7) Keep the town board and public updated on progress.

Why does Pound Ridge need a Water/Wastewater Task Force?

Water/wastewater issues have plagued the Scotts Corners Business District for decades. Several studies (Clark, 1990; Folchetti, 1992; Malcolm Pirnie, 1998, 1999, 2000; Folchette, 2002) have documented the need for a long-term, sustainable Scotts Corner wide wastewater management for current and Town zoning allowed property uses. The current configuration of individual wells and septic systems do not meet regulatory separation requirements and it is only a matter of time before system failures jeopardize the functioning of the Scotts Corners

Business District and expose the Town and businesses to potential liability. Other negative consequences resulting from an inadequate water/wastewater solution include:

Environmental Protection

The continued use of on-site sewage treatment systems in Scotts Corners is severely limited and catastrophic failure of the existing systems should be anticipated if corrective measures are not soon implemented. The potential significant environmental impacts on the surrounding watershed that could result with a failure makes this Project a major local and regional priority. Specifically, the potential direct impact on the watershed would not only impact the Town of Pound Ridge, it would have cascading impacts on countless additional residents of Westchester County and surrounding areas, including the State of Connecticut.

In the event of a failure, the most likely discharge point of the wastewater will be into local wetlands and waterbodies in the Scotts Corners area. The resulting degradation of wetlands, Class AA streams and reservoirs will impact Town residents and business owners. Regionally, the water quality for more than 100,000 people that depend on the area's reservoir system for drinking water would also be at risk. The negative water quality and environmental implications of this issue may also be felt across state lines in the state of Connecticut.

Impact on Economic Development

The direct economic impacts of a lack of suitable wastewater treatment are already being felt locally. Certain business and property owners are now forced to pump out their onsite systems on a monthly basis and at significant costs. As a result, these business and property owners are unable to invest back into the community and provide more job opportunities and services to local and regional residents. Their ability to expand their business is essentially non-existent. Some property owners are even limited in the type, size, and scope of businesses that can occupy their buildings due to the constraints. Scotts Corners does not only provide employment and services locally, it serves the region and beyond, including residents in the neighboring state of Connecticut.

The WWTF is seeking to address water/wastewater issues in the existing footprint of the three business districts (PB-A, PB-B, and PB-C). We are not seeking to expand the footprint of Scotts Corners to a larger area. This is important to ensuring that the business district maintains the small town character of our town.

Impact on Housing

The insufficient treatment systems have essentially halted all new residential development in the area and existing apartments are not able to be occupied. Furthermore, the inability to provide for more housing only increases the costs of existing units both within and near the Town.

Update on Current Efforts

The WWTF, together with the Town's consulting engineers from the Laberge Group and sub-contractors Tighe and Bond, is working to finalize an Engineering Report that meets all requirements of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). This finalized report will detail the proposed water/wastewater solution for Scotts Corners in terms of site, architecture, engineering, and estimated costs.

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023 in a public town board meeting, the Town Board approved an amendment to Laberge Group's contract in the amount of \$24K to study the depth of the bedrock along Westchester Avenue from the Scotts Corner Business District to Old Pound Road, the site of the anticipated wastewater main. Borings will be drilled at intervals along Westchester Avenue measuring the depth of the bedrock. This is a critical step in determining the cost of constructing a wastewater solution. The less rock we have to deal with, the cheaper it will be.

We are currently waiting for DOT to approve the permit to perform the tests. The specialized firm subcontracted to conduct the testing, has marked out along Westchester Avenue where the tests will be performed. We will advise the public once we have the approved permit and confirmed date for testing.

Estimated Timeline of Activities

October/November	Finalize Geoprobe Testing of Water Main Site along Westchester Avenue
November-February	Work with Laberge Group, counsel, and property owners in the business district to legally form water/wastewater district through the creation of a Map and Plan. Conduct Income Study of water/wastewater district to determine eligibility for income-based funding.
January/February	Laberge Group, and subcontracting firm Tighe and Bond, to present final engineering report to the Town of Pound Ridge and to the public.
March-June	Conduct community/public outreach meetings to update and educate the public.

Spring/Summer 2024

Write grants/Seek funding

Please note, the purpose of forming a water/wastewater district is to define the scope of the project. Only properties within the defined district can be taxed to support the water/wastewater costs which means that residents living outside the water/wastewater district will not be taxed. As the costs will only apply to those property owners in the district, this project cannot move forward without the majority support of Scotts Corners Business District landowners.