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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDISON HOUSING WORKS CELEBRATES LINDALE COMMUNITY SEPTIC RIBBON CUTTING

Middlebury, VT - On October 16 at 1pm, Addison Housing Works (AHW) will officially celebrate the commissioning of the Lindale Community Wastewater System with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new system will provide decades of benefits to health, affordable housing, and the environment.

AHW staff will join with funders and residents to mark the occasion with remarks, refreshments, and a site tour featuring a short walk through the woods to the wildlife habitat created by the new disposal fields.

When: Wednesday, October 16, 1pm

Where: Lindale MHC (off 116 in Middlebury, 0.3 miles north of the intersection with Quarry Road)

Built in the 1960s and expanded in the late 1980s, Lindale is home to 67 families in Middlebury. About three miles from downtown, the park is an important contributor of workforce housing to the community, but too far to connect to the municipal wastewater system.

Most of the homes in the original part of the park were connected to individual septic systems, which had not been upgraded in the 60 years since they had been installed. Many were failing and well past the end of their useful lifespan, and some residents even reported sewage backing up into their washing machines and bathtubs. The park is largely built on Addison County clay soils, limiting the potential to repair the systems on site and causing stress to the park's finances as systems needed to be pumped in some cases weekly.

The new system is a 20,000 gallon-per-day system that is fully compliant with the state Agency of Natural Resources' Indirect Discharge Program permitting requirements and will safely serve the park for decades to come, ensuring



adequate wastewater treatment before it reaches Addison County waterways and our beloved Lake Champlain. The new system also improves and protects clean water within the Middlebury public water system's source protection area.

The Lindale Community Septic project began in 2017 with a planning grant application to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). The planning grant led to negotiations with a neighboring landowner to acquire a parcel with capacity to support a new system. In 2021, AHW refinanced the park with tax-exempt financing from the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), allowing AHW to close on the parcel and begin design development work with forgivable loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Local firm Otter Creek Engineering provided the engineering services for the project.

Construction funding was secured from many partners beginning in 2021, including Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs, the ANR Healthy Homes Program, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), VCDP via the Town of Middlebury, and the EPA via Congressionally Designated Spending thanks to Senator Sanders. Belden Construction was selected via a competitive bid process and the project broke ground in 2023 with homes being hooked up to the new system by Thanksgiving of that year. The second replacement leach field as well as park repaving, final connections, and punch list work was completed in September 2024. Construction costs totaled \$3.3 million, with soft costs including refinancing debt to allow for new infrastructure loans adding up to a grand total of over \$5 million to complete the project.

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About Addison Housing Works: AHW strives to enrich the lives of low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and individuals through the development, management, and maintenance of safe, quality, affordable housing and related supports. As of 2024, we own and manage over 750 permanently affordable homes in Addison County including multifamily apartments, manufactured housing communities for owner-occupied homes, and shared-equity single-family homes and condos. We also offer resident services programs including SASH to help seniors age safely at home and the Family Support Program with a focus on housing retention for residents with a history of housing instability.

