

Winsted's Resources 4/8/84 LCT

In most towns, residents would rely on the word of town officials when it comes to the whys and hows of a \$6.5 million water filtration plant or the intricacies of downtown redevelopment. That's the way government works, and usually it's fairly smooth. But in the town of Winsted, where every issue turns highly political, matters can get tricky for the average voter.

Winsted residents, though, will soon get help sifting through fact and fancy when it comes to technical issues. The Shafek Nader Trust for the Community Interest, founded by consumer advocate and Winsted native Ralph Nader and his family, has hired a "community technologist" for the town. A sort of technological consultant, Susan McGuey, of New Rochelle, N.Y., will help residents understand the filtration plant and any other complicated issues that arise.

That is good news for townspeople, and experience suggests that the program will be a success. Since 1989, Winsted's residents have benefited from the services of a "community lawyer," currently Charlene LaVoie, who is also an employee of the trust.

The trust deserves a lot of credit for programs that help busy residents make informed decisions on issues, while putting officials on notice that political shenanigans will not be tolerated.

Winsted Community Trust