

**Catskill Watershed Corporation**  
**Septic Committee Meeting**  
**January 3, 2017**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Tom Hynes (Director), Berndt Leifeld (Director), Wayne Marshfield (Director), Tina Mole' (Director), Tom Snow (NYSDEC), Alan Rosa (CWC), Michael Triolo (Director), Michael Meyer (NYCDEP)

Others: Tim Cox (CWC), Won Kyung Cheng (Homeowner), Bruce Dolph (Coalition of Watershed Towns), Jim Eisel (Director), Dean Frazier (Delaware Co. Watershed Affairs), Diane Galusha (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Leo LaBuda (CWC), Jim Martin (CWC), John Mathiesen (CWC), Mark McCarthy (Director), Barbara Puglisi (CWC), Tom Stalter (NYCDEP), John Schwartz (NYCDEP), David Warne (NYCDEP)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:44 AM by Wayne Marshfield.
- II. Minutes from the November Committee meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program
  - A. Ralph Castelli Additional Costs: Mr. Castelli's project is located in the Town of Neversink. It was previously approved for \$27,395.00. During construction it became apparent that a temporary access road and more site restoration would be required. Mr. Castelli's engineer has verified the need for these additions in writing. The contractor has agreed to a price of \$1,896.00 for the additional work. This is within the staff estimated cost of these items. With this addition, the total project cost will be \$29,291.00. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Ralph Castelli in the amount not to exceed \$1,896.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.
  - B. James Barnhart Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Barnhart's project is located in the Town of Walton. His proposed septic system will serve a three bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 120 linear feet of gravity piping, 170 linear feet of 2" force main, 95 cubic yards of random fill material, 160 cubic yards of absorption fill material, one effluent filter, three peat modules and extensive site restoration. Mr. Barnhart's contractor has submitted a quote for \$27,326.85 to build this system. This is below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. Tina More' abstained. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve

reimbursing James Barnhart in the amount not to exceed \$27,326.85 to build his septic system.

- C. Thomas Katz Over \$25,000.00: This item was tabled.
- D. Nelson Ohl Additional Costs: Mr. Ohl's project is located in the Town of Windham. It was previously approved for \$23,200.00. During construction, the engineer requested additional cut/fill to insure positive drainage and several risers were added to the septic tank because it had to be set much deeper than anticipated. Mr. Ohl's contractor is requesting an additional \$2,798.00 for completing this work. The cost appears to be reasonable and justified. This brings the total project cost to \$25,998.00. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Nelson Ohl in the amount not to exceed \$2,798.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- E. Elaine Mayes Additional Costs: Ms. Mayes' project is located in the Town of Roxbury. It was previously approved for \$28,050.00. During construction several unforeseen conditions were encountered. 40 linear feet of perimeter drain was redirected and 45 cubic yards of random fill material was utilized to ensure proper cover over the septic tank. The fill material avoided extensive rock hammering and is cost effective. Also, several large rocks were encountered and replaced with random fill material. The engineer has verified the need for the additional work. The contractor has requested an additional \$2,478.25 for this work. This will bring the total project cost to \$30,528.25. The contractor is Phil and Nick Finch. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Elaine Mayes in the amount not to exceed \$2,478.25 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- F. Galina Rechetniak Over \$25,000.00: Ms. Rechetniak's project is located in the Town of Windham. Her proposed septic system will serve a five bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,500 septic tank, siphon chamber, 175 linear feet of 4" gravity piping, one distribution box, 345 cubic yards of absorption fill material, one effluent filter, 420 linear feet of absorption trench, 90 linear feet of curtain drain and site restoration. Ms. Rechetniak's contractor has submitted a quote for \$28,824.50 to build this system. This is below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Galina Rechetniak in the amount not to exceed \$28,824.50 to build her septic system.
- G. Jason Butler Eligibility: Mr. Butler's property is located in the Walton Sewer District. He recently contacted us for help with a failing septic system that has backed up into

the house. It appears that the most cost effective solution to his problem is to hook up to the existing sewer main that runs past his property. There was discussion about sewer use laws. This item will be discussed next month when more information is available.

- H. Alpine Inn Cost Eligibility: This project is located in the Town of Shandaken. The business is owned by Eric Griesser. When he signed up for the Small Business Program, the program rules capped funding assistance at \$40,000.00. The program rules have since been changed. The new rule states, "...for repairs or replacements that received construction approval from NYCDEP prior to January 1, 2016. Mr. Griesser was approved for \$40,000.00 in February, 2014. We received Final Construction Acceptance on December 6, 2016. Mr. Griesser should now be eligible for 75% of costs that exceeded the cap that was in place when the project began. These total \$3,537.50, for a total project cost of \$43,537.50. This is the only Small Business Septic Program project that has this situation. It took a very long time to complete this project. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Eric Griesser in the amount not to exceed \$3,537.50 for costs above to build his septic system.
  
- I. >12/31/16 Reimbursement Eligibility: Since 2005 the Reimbursement Program has offered reimbursement to homeowners who had their septic system repaired or replaced during the past year. Each year the Committee has recommended extension of the program to include the previous year. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to extend the annual Reimbursement Program to allow reimbursement to homeowners who had their septic systems repaired or replaced before 12/31/16.
  
- J. Septic Cluster Update: More information has been gathered on the Clovesville Cluster area. It is about 2600 feet from the farthest house to the treatment plant. Two houses appear to have been abandoned. Eight systems are left in the area. To build a cluster system we need four homes with failures. At the present time we have only one. It is the Town's decision whether to participate in this program or not. They have some concerns about operation and maintenance costs, but have expressed interest in the program. The Town has sent letters to DEP and DOH. Wayne expressed the opinion that it doesn't seem right to leave a homeowner with a failed system while this process plays out. It has to be left up to the Town to decide if they want to continue to pursue funding from the Cluster Program.
  
- K. Septic Maintenance: Larry reviewed activity in this program with the Committee. Homeowner response has surpassed last year. 21 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs last month. 261 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs in 2017.

L. Update: Leo reviewed activity in the Septic Program with the Committee. 236 homeowners were reimbursed for septic system repairs in 2017.

IV. The next Septic Committee meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2017.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.