

Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
February 2, 2015
Minutes

Attendance:

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

Others: Tim Cox (CWC), Bruce Dolph (Town of Walton), Martin Donnelly (Director), James Eisel (Director), Diane Galusha (CWC), Jeff Graf (NYCDEP), Larry Kelly (CWC), Innes Kasanof (Director), Leo LaBuda (CWC), Jim Martin (CWC), John Mathieson (CWC), Richard Parete (Director), Ben Pierson (NYSDOH by phone)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:37 AM by Wayne Marshfield.
- II. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program
 - A. Carol Molnar Over \$25,000.00: Ms. Molnar's project is located in the Town of Middletown. Her Proposed septic system will serve an eight bedroom house. Major components of this system include two 1,250 gallon septic tanks, 350 linear feet of 4" gravity piping, one distribution box, 130 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 170 cubic yards of NYSDOT C-33 sand, one effluent filter, 600 linear feet of Presby GEO-Flow piping, 48 linear feet of vent piping, 180 linear feet of curtain drain, a temporary access road and extensive site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project, for \$47,300.00, \$46,825.00 and \$44,550.00. The lowest quote is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. This house is a Bed and Breakfast and is considered eligible for the Residential Program because it is a residence with commercial use with a design flow under 1,000 gallons per day. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Carol Molnar in the amount not to exceed \$44,550.00.00 to build her septic system.
 - B. Alexander Dubois Additional Costs: Mr. Dubois' project is located in the Town of Middletown and was previously approved for \$24,975.00. During construction the engineer determined it was necessary to add 90 cubic yards of random fill material to insure proper operation of the system. The contractor has requested \$1,449.00, in accordance with the Schedule of Values cost of \$16.10 per cubic yard. This will bring the total project cost to \$26,424.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Alexander Dubois in the amount not to exceed \$1,449.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- C. Marion Kulak Over \$15,000.00: This project is located in the Town of Middletown. The proposed septic system will serve a five bedroom house. Major components of the system will include a 1,500 gallon septic tank, 95 linear feet of gravity piping, 370 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 28 cubic yards of NYSDOT C-33 sand, 320 linear feet of Presby GEO-Flow piping, 115 linear feet of curtain drain, 125 of vent piping and site restoration. A contractor has submitted a quote for \$27,725.00 to build this system. This is slightly 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 of Directors to approve reimbursing Marion Kulak in the amount not to exceed \$27,725.00 to build his septic system.
- D. Jens Sirset Additional Costs: Mr. Sirset's project is located in the Town of Windham. Additional costs were brought before the Committee last month. \$3,123.00 was approved. This amount was incorrect due to payments previously made in 2001. Additionally there was a \$10.00 typographical error. The correct amount to be approved is \$2,495.00. This amount will bring the total project cost to \$30,443.00. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Jens Sirset in the amount not to exceed \$2,495.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- E. James Buonocore Additional Costs: Mr. Buonocore's project is located in the Town of Middletown and was previously approved for \$27,915.00. During construction, due to wet conditions, a stone access road had to be built to get materials and equipment to the absorption area. Mr. Buonocore's engineer has verified the need for this additional work. T it became apparent that an electric pole guy wire needed to be removed and replace to allow construction of the absorption field. Mr. Paul's engineer has verified the need for this additional work. Mr. Buonocore's contractor has requested \$1,250.00 for the access road. This is a very reasonable price for the work performed. This will bring the total project cost to \$29,165.00. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse James Buonocore in the amount not to exceed \$1,250.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- F. Small Business Septic Program Rules: A letter received January 19, 2016 from the Coalition of Watershed Towns has been attached to the Committee agenda. The Coalition is requesting that the CWC Board remove the \$40,000.00 cap on reimbursement under this program. The Coalition also states that they will advocate for the removal of the 75% cost share in this program. CWC staff has proposed the following program rule change:

“1. The CWC shall pay 75% of the eligible cost of needed repairs or replacements for eligible septic systems serving a small business. ~~Reimbursement by CWC shall not exceed \$40,000.00, inclusive of construction and engineering fees.~~ In the event the use of the

septic system changed to a different activity, eligible costs shall be limited to the cost of repairing or replacing the septic system based upon the original use.”

Small business owners have been facing problems. The 25% cost share that they are responsible for under this program is written into the contract for the program and can't be changed. Since the program began, Schedule of Values costs have risen 23.52%. The rules for three quotes and Board review are the same as for the residential Septic Program. Construction costs over \$25,000.00 are reviewed by the Septic Committee and brought before the Board for approval. Three quotes are required for construction costs over \$30,000.00. DEP is reviewing this program.

The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to make the above program rule change removing the \$40,000.00 cap on Small Business Septic Program funding. Mike Meyer opposed, all others voted in favor.

- G. Septic Cluster Update: There was one request for this program last month in Clovesville, Town of Middletown. No failure has been identified at this property.
- H. Septic Maintenance: Larry Kelly reviewed activity in this program with the Committee. 16 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs last month. This is a high number for January.
- I. Other: A letter appealing a Maintenance Program reimbursement was received from Louis Vanacore. Mr. Vanacore had his septic tank and pump chamber pumped out. Additionally he submitted a \$200.00 bill for resetting the floats in his pump chamber. The Maintenance Program reimburses homeowners 50% of pumping costs. Other costs are considered the homeowner's responsibility. The Committee recommended that Louis Vanacore's request to be reimbursed for the costs other than pumping costs be denied.
- J. Update: Leo reviewed activity in the Septic Program with the Committee. 7 septic system repairs/replacements were paid for last month.
- K. Other: Another letter requesting an appeal was received from William Guild, the new owner of a property at 98 Hickory Rd., Willow. In 2008 the home was enrolled in the Septic Program as a second home, eligible for 60% funding. No program funding has been spent on this property. Mr. Guild plans to make the house his primary residence. He is asking to be allowed as a primary resident. Under the program rules, the house stays at 60%. Alan suggested that the homeowner be allowed to re-apply as a full time resident when he moves in. There is no need to change the Program Rules. There is an appeal process. The Committee recommended that Mr. Guild send another letter of request and re-apply as a full time resident when he has moved to 98 Hickory Rd.

IV. The next Septic Committee meeting was scheduled for March 1, 2016.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM.