

Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
February 3, 2015
Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members: Donald Brandow (Director), Thomas Hynes (Director), Berndt Leifeld (Director), Wayne Marshfield (Director), Tina Mole' (Director), Robert Pelham (Director), Ben Pierson (NYSDOH by phone), Alan Rosa (CWC), Michael Triolo (Director) and Michael Meyer (NYCDEP)

Others: Tim Cox (CWC), Jeff Graf (NYCDEP), John Jacobson (CWC), Larry Kelly (CWC), Leo LaBuda (CWC), and Tom Stalter (NYCDEP)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Wayne Marshfield.
- II. Minutes from last meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program
 - A. Howard Werner Additional Costs: Mr. Werner's project is located in the Town of Olive and was previously approved for \$29,600.00. During construction a stone wall had to be removed. Excavation revealed that it was much wider and deeper below ground level than expected and a void was left. The engineer directed the contractor to add 47 cubic yards of material to fill the void. The contractor has submitted costs in accordance with the Schedule of Values totaling \$1,324.46. This will bring the total project cost to \$30,924.46. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Howard Werner in the amount not to exceed \$1,324.46 for additional costs to build his septic system.
 - B. Patrick Funk Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Funk's project is located in the Town of Shandaken. His house has four bedrooms. Major components of his proposed septic system include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 173 linear feet of 4" PVC gravity piping, one distribution box, 450 cubic yards of absorption fill material, an effluent filter, 320 linear feet of absorption trench, 195 linear feet of curtain drain and site

restoration. A quote has been received from Mr. Funk's contractor for \$27,500.00 to build this system. This is slightly below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Patrick Funk in the amount not to exceed \$27,500.00.00 to build his septic system.

- C. Anthony Athanasakes Eligibility: Mr. Athanasakes's property is located in the Town of Shandaken. There is a main house and four rental houses on the property. The four rental properties were completely rebuilt between 2004 and 2007. The total number of bedrooms is 18. The septic system that serves the main house and one rental house has apparently failed.

In 1997 when the septic programs were developed the funding was to remediate failed septic systems on existing properties. Between 2004 and 2007 the houses on this property were renovated. The value of the renovations exceeded 75% of the previous value of the buildings, causing the property to be considered new construction. There is funding for new construction when DEP requirements exceed 75-A, but that has been very rare. There has been new interest in boarding houses and other properties similar to this one and they are bringing people into the Catskills. The increased use of these properties is causing failure of a growing number of existing septic systems. The septic programs exist to protect water quality, and also the businesses, tax base and economy of the region. Mr. Athanasakes' property is close enough to a watercourse that it would qualify for funding if it met other parameters of the program.

There was discussion of a possible rule change that might allow funding for properties such as this one. Funding is available for trailer parks. When a mobile home has been replaced it is more than 75% of the value of the previous mobile home, but funding has been allowed for them. The possibility of changing program rules was brought up. DEP and staff will meet to discuss a program rule change.

- D. Septic Cluster Update: Leo had nothing to report on this program this month.

E. Septic Maintenance: Larry Kelly reviewed activity in this program with the Committee. 9 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs last month.

F. Update: Leo reviewed activity in the Septic Program with the Committee. 9 homeowners were reimbursed for septic system repairs last month. These are projects that were completed last year. Next month the reimbursements to homeowners who completed their own septic system repairs in 2014 will appear.

G. The next Septic Committee meeting was scheduled for March 3, 2015.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.