

**Catskill Watershed Corporation**  
**Septic Committee Meeting**  
**October 4, 2016**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

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

Excused: Robert Pelham (Director)

Others: Tim Cox (CWC), Bruce Dolph (Coalition of Watershed Towns), Marty Donnelly (Director), Phil Eskeli (NYCDEP), Diane Galusha (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Innes Kasanof (Director), Larry Kelly (CWC), Leo LaBuda (CWC), Jim Martin (CWC), John Mathiesen (CWC), Molly Oliver (Delaware Co. Watershed Affairs), Barbara Puglisi (CWC), Tom Stalter (NYCDEP), Alicia Terry (Schoharie Co. Planning)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:56 AM by Wayne Marshfield.
- II. Septic Program
  - A. Dennis Connington Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Connington's project is located in the Town of Kortright. His proposed septic system will serve a three bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, pump station, 25 linear feet of 4" gravity piping, 50 linear feet of force main, 55 cubic yards of random fill material, an effluent filter, three peat modules, 100 linear feet of curtain drain and site restoration. Mr. Connington's contractor has submitted a quote for \$26,500.00 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 Dennis Connington in the amount not to exceed \$26,500.00 to build his septic system.

- B. Lucinda Hopps Over \$25,000.00: Ms. Hopps' project is located in the Town of Hamden. Her proposed septic system will serve a three bedroom house. Major components of this system include (a 1,000 gallon septic tank and riser previously installed at a cost of \$1,110.10), pump station, 40 linear feet of 4" gravity piping, 210 linear feet of force main, one distribution box, 130 cubic yards of absorption fill material, one effluent filter, 225 linear feet of absorption trench, 110 linear feet of curtain drain, 160 linear feet of swale, a temporary access road, tree and brush removal and extensive site restoration. Ms. Hopps' contractor has submitted a quote for \$24,625.20 to build this system. This is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The total project cost with the tank and riser will be \$25,735.30. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Lucinda Hopps in the amount not to exceed \$24,625.20 to build her septic system.
- C. Raymond Kowalski Additional Costs: Mr. Kowalski's project is located in the Town of Shandaken. His project was previously approved for \$24,956.00. During construction it was discovered that the existing septic tank was leaking. The engineer directed the contractor to replace it with a new concrete tank. The engineer also directed the contractor to install 240 linear feet of curtain drain to prevent groundwater infiltration in the absorption field. Mr. Kowalski's contractor has requested an additional \$4,296.00 for this work. The costs appear to be reasonable and justified. Mr. Kowalski's engineer has verified the need for the work. With these items, the total construction cost for the project will be \$29,252.00. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve reimbursing Raymond Kowalski in the amount not to exceed \$4,296.00 for additional costs to complete her septic system.
- D. Michael Carroll Additional Costs: Mr. Carroll's project is located in the Town of Kortright. His project was previously approved for \$29,450.00. During construction the engineer asked the contractor to install 182

linear feet of curtain drain and addition site restoration to protect the new septic system from runoff. The contractor has requested \$3,735.80 for the additional work. These costs are in accordance with the Schedule of Values. The Septic Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Michael Carroll in the amount not to exceed \$3,735.80 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- E. Joan Finazzo Additional Costs: Ms. Finazzo's project is located in the Town of Andes Her project was previously approved for \$24,832.00. During construction it was discovered that a perimeter drain ran to the area where the new septic system would be constructed. The engineer directed the contractor to re-route the perimeter drain and a sump pump line. A H20 septic tank was also installed due to the proximity of the driveway. A H20 septic tank has more concrete and reinforcement and will withstand loads of 20,000 lbs. per axle. The contractor has requested \$4,013.00 for these additions. The costs appear to be reasonable and justified. The engineer has verified the need for the additional work. The total project cost with these additions will be \$28,845.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Joan Finazzo in the amount not to exceed \$4,013.00 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- F. Laura Levine Over \$25,000.00: Ms. Levine's project is located in the Town of Shandaken. Her house has two bedrooms. Major components of her proposed septic system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank (previously installed, but not paid for yet), a siphon chamber, 75 linear feet of 4" gravity piping, one distribution box, 362 cubic yards of absorption material, 250 linear feet of absorption trench, tree and brush removal, a temporary access road and site restoration. Ms. Levine's contractor has submitted a quote for \$26,336.00 (not including the tank) to build this system. The total cost of the project including the tank installation will be \$29,297.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board to reimburse Laura Levine in the amount not to exceed \$29,297.00 to build her septic system.

- G. William Wolfinger Septic System: This project is an Eljen septic system and was approved for \$29,368.00 last October. This cost included 280 cubic yards of absorption fill material and 10 cubic yards of C-33 sand. The contractor used screened ditch dirt for fill material. The engineer approved using it. The system failed in January prior to NYCDEP issuing construction approval. The engineer has directed the contractor to replace the ditch dirt, C33 sand and Eljen units. Eljen is providing new units at no cost. Tim gave Committee members a copy of a letter received from the contractor requesting payment for extra time and replacement of the ditch dirt with alternative fill material. The Septic Program Participation Agreement does not provide a warranty for the engineer's or contractor's work. CWC has not paid anything yet. The Committee unanimously recommended that no additional CWC funding be provided to redo the new absorption field.
- H. Septic Cluster: A letter has been received from Richard Solomon, the resident in the Clovesville cluster area who has a septic system in need of repair. He states that he is not interested in participating in a cluster system. Tim said that the Town also has expressed concern over their responsibility to maintain a cluster system. There are no operation and maintenance (O&M) funds available if a future repair to a cluster system is necessary. The Cluster Program was meant for areas where there is no room to build onsite systems. So far no towns have been interested, due to the lack of O&M funds available. This may be a disadvantage to the program, but CWC is very limited by the contract with what can be funded in this program. Homeowners on a cluster system would be eligible for 50% reimbursements for pump outs under the Maintenance Program.
- I. Septic Maintenance: Larry Kelly reviewed activity in this program with the Committee. Response has been good this year. 27 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs last month. This brings the total for this year to 175.

J. Update: Leo reviewed activity in the Septic Program with the Committee. 20 homeowners were reimbursed for septic system repairs this month. The total for the year is 151.

K. Other: Leo passed a photograph of a eutrophic pond with a failed septic system running into it taken by Larry Kelly. Effluent from the failed system had fed an intense algae bloom. Fixing septic systems does improve water quality. It may take some time for this pond to recover.

Wayne said that the Town of Hamden always chooses CWC to inspect the septic systems in the Delancey Managed District. Unlike the Cluster Program, the Town was provided with funding for Operation and Maintenance, so there is money when repairs are needed. The Town has to be diligent about maintenance. Wayne thanked Larry for his work for the District.

Leo mentioned that he had received a letter from David Warne updating acceptance of septage from pumper/haulers at DEP owned wastewater treatment plants.

III. The next Septic Committee meeting was scheduled for November 1, 2016.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.