

Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
December 1, 2020
Draft Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members: Tina Mole' (Director, in person), Richard Parete (Director by Zoom), Anthony Van Glad (Director by Zoom), Arthur Merrill (Director by Zoom), Mark Tuthill (Director by Zoom), Thomas Hoyt (Director by Zoom), Allen Hinkley (Director by Zoom), Thomas Snow (NYSDEC by Zoom), Alan Rosa (CWC), David Warne (NYCDEP by Zoom)

Others Samantha Costa (CWC), Timothy Cox (CWC), Mitchell Hull (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Jason Merwin (CWC), Patrick Palmer (NYSDOH by Zoom), Barbara Puglisi (CWC)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:27 AM by Anthony Van Glad.
- II. Minutes from the November Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program:

A. David Blumenberg Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Blumenberg's project is located at 321 Begley Rd. in the Town of Windham. His engineer is Christopher DiChiaro. His contractor is Hickory Hill Builders. His proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, a pump chamber, 25 linear feet of gravity piping, 37 linear feet of force main, 363 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 400 linear feet of absorption trench, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 60 linear feet of curtain drain, 217 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, tree removal and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$36,350.00, \$41,250.00 and \$43,044.48. The lowest quote, submitted by Hickory Hill Builders, is just below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse David Blumenberg in the amount not to exceed \$36,350.00 to build his septic system.

B. Kevin Lum Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Lum's project is located at 1659 Chambers Hollow Rd. in the Town of Hamden. His engineer is Sander Engineering. His contractor is Ben Reynolds Construction. His proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, 23 linear feet of gravity pipe, 115 linear feet of force main, three peat modules, one effluent filter, 100 linear feet of curtain drain and site restoration. Mr. Lum's contractor has submitted a quote for \$29,780.00 to build this system. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Kevin Lum in the amount not to exceed \$29,780.00 to build his septic system.

C. Elaine Quigley Over \$25,000.00: Ms. Quigley's project is located at 118 Meehan Rd.. in the Town of Middletown. Her engineer is John Bolger. Her contractor is Jim Peters Excavation. Her proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 62 linear feet of gravity pipe, 310 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 240 linear feet of absorption trench, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 145 linear feet of improved swale, 100 linear feet of access road and site restoration. Ms. Quigley's contractor has submitted a quote for \$27,500.00 to build this system. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Elaine Quigley in the amount not to exceed \$27,500.00 to build her septic system.

D. Leo Warren Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Warren's project is located at 4 Red Maple Rd. in the Town of Olive. This project is a Managed Repair within the proposed Shokan Sewer District. Pursuant to the MOA Septic Program Rules, the failure of Mr. Warren's existing septic system was confirmed by CWC staff and NYCDEP. Although CWC staff would have preferred a more limited repair, NYCDEP regulatory staff would only approve a complete replacement of the septic field to correct this septic system failure. His engineer is Lamont Engineers. His contractor is Eberhardt Excavation. His proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. Most of the major components of this system will include 63 linear feet of gravity pipe, 539 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 140 linear feet of absorption trench, one distribution box, an effluent filter, removing trees and site restoration. There is an existing 1,000 gallon septic in good condition. Mr. Warren's contractor has submitted a quote for \$29,553.25 to build this system. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Leo Warren in the amount not to exceed \$29,553.25 to build his septic system.

E. Jeffrey Norwick Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Norwick's project is located at 25 Red Kill Rd. in the Town of Middletown. His engineer is John Bolger. His contractor is Norwick Bros. Concrete & Construction. The property owner also owns the contracting firm and will be performing the work. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a 1,500 gallon septic tank, one pump chamber with a grinder pump, 90 linear feet of gravity pipe, 140 linear feet of force main, 400 linear feet of conventional absorption trench, five risers, five bollards, five linear feet of 6" pipe, two effluent filters, one distribution box and site restoration. The contractor has submitted a quote for \$29,999.00 to build this system. Under the Expanded Septic System Program, this project is eligible for \$22,064.01. Under the Residential Septic Program, it is eligible for $7,934.98 \times 60\% = \$4,760.99$. The total project cost to these two programs will be \$26,825.00. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Jeffrey Norwick in the amount not to exceed \$26,825.00 to build his septic system.

F. Edward Dalski Additional Cost: Mr. Dalski's project is located at 218 Lower Highland Circle in the Town of Roxbury. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Chad Davis Contracting. The project was previously approved for \$45,900.00. Bedrock was encountered

when digging began for the septic tank, dosing chamber and curtain drain. The rock was very hard. The contractor rented an excavator with a hammer. He hammered for three and a half days. He has requested an additional \$7,700.00 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. This will bring the total construction cost to \$53,600.00. CWC staff noted a nearby property that recently participated in the MOA Septic Program also required a large amount of rock removal. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Edward Dalski in the amount not to exceed \$7,700.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

G. Alex Hoffman Additional Cost: Mr. Hoffman's project is located at 31 Big Rock Rd. in the Town of Middletown. This site is outside of the proposed Halcottsville Sewer District. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Romosa Excavation. This project was previously approved for \$33,601.00. Due to topography it was not possible to install the dosing chamber, so the contractor has credited back \$3,325.00 for a new total project cost of \$30,276.00. Bedrock was encountered when digging began for the septic tank, sewer line and curtain drain. The contractor rented an excavator with a hammer. He hammered for two days to excavate appropriate depths for the septic tank, sewer line and curtain drain. The contractor has requested an additional \$4,400.00 for the additional work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. This will bring the total cost of construction to \$34,676.00. This is \$1,075.00 above the previously approved project cost. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Alex Hoffman in the amount not to exceed \$1,075.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

H. Elliot Hurwitz Additional Costs: Mr. Hurwitz's project is located at 25 Sylken Lane in the Town of Hurley. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Eberhardt Excavation. This project was previously approved for \$32,124.36. While excavating for the dosing chamber, the contractor discovered a roof drain that discharged toward the new septic system. The engineer asked that it be relocated. Coarse shale was also dug out that could not be used for backfill. Random fill material was brought in to bed and cover pipes and to backfill the dosing chamber. Mr. Hurwitz's contractor has requested an additional \$2,402.45 for these items. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. This will bring the total cost of construction to \$34,526.81. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Elliot Hurwitz in the amount not to exceed \$2,402.45 for additional costs to build his septic system.

I. Andrew Kothe Additional Cost: Mr. Kothe's project is located at 41 Brodhead Rd. in the Town of Olive. His engineer is Joe Boek. His contractor is Ashokan Excavating. The homeowner owns the contracting firm and will be performing the work. This project was previously approved for \$38,974.05. Bedrock was uncovered while excavating for the septic tank and dosing chamber. The contractor had to rent an excavator with a hammer. Five hours of hammering was required to attain the proper depth for the tanks. An additional \$1,375.00 has been requested for this work. This cost appears to be reasonable and justified. This will bring the total cost of construction to \$40,349.05. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of

Directors to reimburse Andrew Kothe in the amount not to exceed \$1,375.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

J. Tomasz Racewicz Additional Cost: Mr. Racewicz's project is located at 1703 Big Red Kill Rd. in the Town of Middletown. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Eberhardt Excavation. This project was previously approved for \$46,709.91. The contractor was required to install two additional two-foot risers on the septic tank and dosing chamber. His original estimate only included one 12" riser on the septic tank. The contractor has asked for an additional \$404.00 for these items. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. This will bring the total cost of construction to \$47,113.91. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Tomasz Racewicz in the amount not to exceed \$404.00 to build his septic system.

M Septic Maintenance: Mitch Hull reviewed activity in this program with the Committee. 65 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs last month. The total for this year is 452. This is way above average. Staff has been pushing maintenance.

N Septic Cluster: There was no report this month.

O Septic Update: Mitch Hull reviewed activity in the Septic Program with the Committee. 25 systems were paid for last month. The total for this year is 245. We have surpassed last year's number.

P Other: Allen Hinkley inquired about new applications for the MOA Residential Septic Program. Alan explained that the Program is currently closed to new applicants as the backlog until the backlog gets reduced. The backlog of projects was 502 in August, 2020 when the program was suspended for new applicants.. Tim Cox noted that at that time, CWC Septic staff were getting up to 30 calls per day, mostly from people who had recently moved here. The demand for the program exceeded any other time in the program's history. Alan Rosa explained that the number of projects on the backlog cannot exceed available funding. Alan also noted that CWC has been working to reduce the backlog, including now requiring homeowners to complete the septic repair or replacement within two years. Alan continued that many homeowners do not pressure their engineers and contractors to finish them quickly. As a result, the engineers and contractors were viewing the CWC septic programs as filler work. The backlog has decreased to 350 projects. When it is down to 300, new applications may be considered.

IV. The next Septic Committee Meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2021.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 AM.