

**Catskill Watershed Corporation  
Septic Committee Meeting  
November 2, 2021  
Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Tina Mole' (Director), Richard Parete (Director), Alicia Terry (Director), Arthur Merrill (Director), Mark Tuthill (Director), Thomas Hoyt (Director), Allen Hinkley (Director), Thomas Snow (Director), Jason Merwin (CWC), David Warne (NYCDEP)

Others: Nicholas Carbone (Delaware County Watershed Affairs by Zoom), Samantha Costa (CWC), Timothy Cox (CWC), Jim Eisel (Director), Jessica Feidler (CWC by Zoom), Mitchell Hull (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Lynn Kavanagh (CWC), Michael Maloney (NYSDOH), Jim Martin (CWC), Pat Palmer (NYSDOH), Barbara Puglisi (CWC), Skylie Roberts (CWC by Zoom), Jeff Senterman (Director), Cambria Tallman (CWC)

- I. Arthur Merrill called the meeting to order at 9:44 AM.
- II. Minutes from the October, 2021 Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program:
  - A. **Wayne Caffery Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Caffery's project is located at 155 Fitch Road, in the Town of Walton. His engineer is Steele Brook Engineering. His contractor is Robinson Bros. Excavating. Mr. Caffery's two-year project deadline is December 27, 2021. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 65 linear feet of gravity pipe, 339 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 225 linear feet of absorption trench, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 92 linear feet of improved swale, remove one tree and site restoration. Mr. Caffery's contractor has submitted a quote for \$27,426.50 to build this system. This amount is below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. There should be no need to extend the two-year deadline. The contractor has already begun construction. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Wayne Caffery in the amount not to exceed \$27,426.50 to build his septic system.

- B. **Donald Blouin Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Blouin's project is located at 227 Panther View Drive, Fleischmanns, NY, in the Town of Middletown. This project is for the Belleayre Realty office. It is eligible for funding from the Expanded Septic Program. His engineer is John Bolger. His contractor is Jim Peters Excavating. Mr. Blouin's two-year project deadline is October 29, 2022. Major components if the proposed system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a pump chamber, 30 linear feet of gravity pipe, 97 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 100 linear feet of absorption trench, 242 cubic yards of

absorption fill material and site restoration. Mr. Blouin's contractor has submitted a quote for \$29,999.00 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 Donald Blouin in the amount not to exceed \$29,999.00 to build his septic system.

- C. **Melanie Watson Over \$25,000.00:** Ms. Watson's project is a second time repair located at 3466 County Highway 47 in the Town of Walton. Her engineer is Sander Engineering. Her contractor is Robinson Bros. Excavating. Ms. Watson's two-year deadline is June 2, 2022. Most of the major components of this system will include 90 linear feet of force main, four peat modules, 183 cubic yards of absorption fill material and site restoration. Ms. Watson's contractor has submitted a quote for \$29,950.00 to build this system. This amount is 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 Melanie Watson in the amount not to exceed \$29,950.00 to build her septic system.
- D. **Helen Chinitz Additional Costs:** Ms. Chinitz's project is located at 132 Lower Third Brook Road in the Town of Walton. Her engineer is Steele Brook Engineering. Her contractor is Butch Neale. This project was previously approved for \$18,145.00. The contractor has asked to be reimbursed \$273.41 for material cost increases. The total project cost with this additional cost will be \$18,418.41. The contractor has provided documentation of what he paid. This cost appears to be reasonable and justified. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Helen Chinitz in the amount not to exceed \$273.41 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- E. **Peter Forbis Additional Cost:** Mr. Forbis' project is located at 7 Norman Road in the Town of Shandaken. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Michael Formont. His proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. A 1,250 gallon septic tank was previously installed for \$3,861.60. The construction is already complete. The contractor forgot to send a quote before starting. Most of the major components include a pump chamber, ten linear feet of gravity pipe, 60 linear feet of force main, one distribution box, 105 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 280 linear feet of absorption trench, 80 linear feet of access road, 130 linear feet of improved swale, 90 linear feet of 12" culvert pipe and site restoration. Mr. Forbis' contractor has submitted a quote for \$25,143.00 to build this system. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The total project cost will be \$29,004.60. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Peter Forbis in the amount not to exceed \$25,143.00 to build his septic system.

**F. Peter Forbis Additional Costs:** Mr. Forbis' project is located at 7 Norman Road in the Town of Shandaken. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Michael Formont. This project was previously installed for a cost of \$29,004.60. Excessively rocky material was encountered during excavation for the pump chamber, sewer line and absorption field. Groundwater was high while setting the pump chamber. The contractor had to use a pump to ensure that the tank would not float. The contractor has also asked to be reimbursed for material price increases. He has provided documentation of what he paid. Mr. Forbis' contractor is asking for \$859.60 for additional work and \$1,204.13 for material cost increases. The contractor is asking for less material cost increase than the Schedule of Values allows. The total project cost will be \$31,068.33. These costs appear to be reasonable and justified. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Peter Forbis in the amount not to exceed \$2,063.73 for additional costs to build his septic system.

**G. Kevin Lum Additional Costs:** Mr. Lum's project is located at 1659 Chambers Hollow Road in the Town of Hamden. His engineer is Sander Engineering. His contractor is Ben Reynolds Construction. This project was previously approved for \$29,780.00. The contractor has asked to be reimbursed for material cost increases. He has provided documentation of what he paid. He is asking for \$4,160.00. Staff believes that the reasonable cost is \$3,686.00. The total project cost with this additional amount will be \$33,466.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Kevin Lum in the amount not to exceed \$3,686.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

**H. Sheri Stalter Additional Costs:** Mr. Stalter's project is located at 1999 Launt Hollow Road in the Town of Hamden. Her engineer is Sander Engineering. Her contractor is Delaware Bulldozing Corp. Her project was previously approved for \$28,003.00. Very wet conditions were present during construction. A 170 linear foot curtain drain was required to divert water away from the absorption field. A propane line was damaged and repaired while building the curtain drain. The contractor requests \$2,785.06 for the added work and \$792.00 for material cost increases. Staff believes a reasonable cost for both items is \$3,083.26. The total project cost with this additional amount will be \$31,086.26. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Sheri Stalter in the amount not to exceed \$3,083.26 for additional costs to build her septic system.

**I. Robert Townsend Additional Cost:** Mr. Townsend's project is located at 4818 Vega Mountain Road in the Town of Roxbury. His engineer is John Bolger. His contractor is Jim Peters Excavating. This project was previously approved for \$25,000.00. The contractor has requested an additional \$182.00 for material cost increases. He provided documentation of what he paid. Staff believes that a reasonable and justified cost is \$181.46. The total project cost with this additional amount will be \$25,181.46, The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Robert

Townsend in the amount not to exceed \$181.46 for additional costs to build his septic system.

J. **George Sabsovich Additional Cost:** Mr. Sabsovich's project is located at 314 Bloomer Road, Tannersville, NY in the Town of Hunter. His engineer is Christopher DiChiaro. His contractor is C&C Excavating. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Mr. Sabsovich's two-year deadline is September 21, 2022. A 1,000 gallon septic tank was previously installed at a cost of \$7,850.00. Most of the major components of this system will include a siphon chamber, 59 linear feet of gravity pipe, one distribution box, 408 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 45 cubic yards of C-33 sand, 240 linear feet of Presby pipe, 80 linear feet of access road, remove 17 trees, 85 linear feet of vent pipe and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$39,500.00, \$44,335.00 and \$46,200.00. The lowest quote, submitted by C&C Excavating, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The total project cost will be \$47,350.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse George Sabsovich in the amount not to exceed \$39,500.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

K. **George Haynes Additional Cost:** This project, located at 183 Crowe Road, Bloomville, NY in the Town of Kortright, is for the Town of Kortright Highway Garage. The project is eligible for funding from the Expanded Septic Program. The engineer is Sander Engineering. The contractor is Mason and Noble Construction. It was previously approved for \$22,064.50. The contractor has asked to be reimbursed an additional \$1,901.34 for material cost increases. Staff believes that a reasonable and justified cost is \$1,674.70. Bid documents were received. There was discussion over whether cost increases are allowed for Town projects. Projects costing less than \$25,000.00 do not have to go out to bid. Material costs are fluctuating. Costs vary widely depending on when materials are bought. Currently, Schedule 80 pipe and pumps are difficult to obtain. The Town Board will have to approve material cost increases. The total project cost with the additional cost of materials will be \$23,739.20. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse George Haynes in the amount not to exceed \$1,674.70 for additional costs to build the Town of Kortright Highway Garage septic system.

L. **Septic Maintenance:** Mitch Hull updated the Committee on activity in the Septic Maintenance Program. 65 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs over the past month. 483 homeowners have been reimbursed for pump outs this year. This number is above average.

M. **Septic Cluster:** There was nothing to report in this program.

N. **Septic Update:** 29 homeowners were reimbursed for septic system repairs last month. This number is average for the month. 194 homeowners have been

reimbursed for septic system repairs this year. The number of systems completed is above average despite it being a hard year for construction.

**0. Other:** Jason reviewed the chart of Septic Program funding. He is making a transition from using a baseline of \$29,000.00 per system to \$32,000.00. The chart breaks down both amounts. Using \$29,000.00 for an average cost per system, there are 11 slots open. At \$32,000.00 per system, the program is short funding for 24 systems. This more accurately depicts where the program is. The current average cost of a septic system is \$32,195.00.

\$29,000.00 has been used as an average cost per system since December, 2020. As discussions move forward it is important to have accurate numbers. The average cost per system was \$27,000.00 when the contract for the Septic Program was negotiated. Inflation will have to be built in for the future.

There have been discussions with DEP about how to keep the program open. DEP offered a solution for Septic Program funding. It is not enough. Jason thanked them for the offer. Discussions continue.

Tim Cox disclosed that he has an approved design to repair a failed absorption field at his home. His contractor is working there today. A septic tank was previously installed. The cost of the repair will be \$22,528.66.

Jason is discussing with DEP transitioning pump replacement and float repair funding assistance from the Second Time Repair Program to the Maintenance Program. A cost threshold and other details are being worked out. Dave Warne said that he believes this transition will move forward.

Jason is planning a meeting with DEP regulatory staff. Cost saving measures are not being consistently allowed. A comparison between costs and benefits of completing a small number of very compliant septic systems versus a larger number of good systems needs to be done.

IV. The next Septic Committee Meeting was scheduled for December 7, 2021.

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