

WPCA – Minutes – 9.19.2023

The Water Pollution Control Authority meeting minutes of September 19, 2023.

Present: Donald Mayland, Chairman; John Whalen; Jim Rutledge; Pat Hackett; Robin Leech; Charles Humes, Superintendent. **Absent:** David Bayersdorfer.

The meeting was **called to order** at 9:01am.

D. Mayland made a motion to **approve the agenda** with the addition of “Discussion of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), regulations and online-permitting with Abby Conroy, Land Use Administrator.” J. Whalen seconded, and the agenda was approved as amended.

R. Leech made a motion to **approve the minutes** of the July 18, 2023 meeting. P. Hackett seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A. Conroy, Land Use Administrator, informed the WPCA members that the Planning & Zoning Commission is working on the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). Since the last plan, the legislature has amended the requirements for what goes into the POCD, requiring we include a map that shows areas sewer systems are available, planned or avoided. The Land Use office is working on developing a map with data from the Assessor and the current main sewer line map from the Superintendent of the plant. The sewer service area is partially determined by the regulations. Sections 7-9 in the regulations state the areas of availability, non-availability and non-contiguous availability. Since the regulations have not been updated since 1971, A. Conroy asked the WPCA members to work on updating the regulations and requested assistance to work on the map. P. Hackett and J. Whalen offered to help work on the map. R. Leech and J. Rutledge offered to help update the regulations and review the ordinances.

A. Conroy gave a brief overview of the new online permitting software OpenGov. The Land Use office is working on incorporating the WPCA into the software. This would create a step for contractors and homeowners to apply for and pay for a permits to connect to our existing sewer system. The Superintendent will receive notifications to go for initial and final inspections. This software can also incorporate businesses that have grease traps sending notifications to remind them of the required regular cleanings, inspections and the ability to submit documentation.

There was discussion about what the consequences are for violating the ordinances or regulations. The Town does not have a citation ordinance. The WPCA will ask the attorney about what citations we are authorized to enforce based on the ordinances we have in place. The Town may have to adopt a new ordinance to reflect violations.

Superintendent’s Report

- C. Humes agreed that the regulations need to be updated. The Tax Collector notified the WPCA that a homeowner was being billed for two units at one address - the main house and an accessory apartment. The main house is connected to Town sewer. The accessory apartment has its own private septic tank. The question is if both buildings are required to be connected to the sewer. C. Humes is going to test the line to see if the accessory apartment is connected to the sewer in any way, and report back. He will also check with Torrington Area Health. A. Conroy mentioned that they may only need to connect if/when the septic system fails and needs replacement.
- The scum pump at plant stopped working in July, and parts were not available. A new pump from Waste Corp was purchased and installed.

- The four-pump system currently at the Interlaken/Hotchkiss pump station needs to be upgraded. The WPCA does not have the funds to do the upgrade at this time; a loan from the Town will be required. One pump has failed and cannot be repaired; the other pump is running at a high rate and will also need to be replaced. C. Humes recommended that we convert to a new two-pump system with a higher PSI compared to the four-pump system we have. He is currently working on getting pricing for the replacements from three different companies. C. Humes will also work on getting pricing on the mechanical side for pressure testing the line to make sure it can handle the higher PSI if we upgrade to the new two-pump system.

Chairman's Report

- The Tax Collector reported that outstanding WPCA sewer bills are totaling roughly \$98,000 at this time. This includes the \$56,000 reported in July and the new non-payment totals since the new billing on July 1, 2023. D. Mayland plans on sending out a letter from the Board of Selectmen at the end of the fiscal year to all delinquent accounts reminding the residents of the 18% interest annually, liens and that the revenue is important to maintain the operations of the system.

Adjourn: 10:02am