



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – March 29, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Attending: Chris Albert, Tom Canfield, Bruce Fillmore, Jim Hanna, Carl Hagstrom, Larry Maznek, Micah Denner, Chris Kent **Absent:** Aaron Wechsler, Gary Spaulding **Staff:** Matt Gatzke

Meeting started at 4:36 pm.

Minutes of February 22, Board Meetings: Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

Review of February 28 Financial Report: Matt shared the financial report and reviewed various highlights. Income high because of conference revenue and not bill have been paid yet. That will be reflected in the March report. Reviewed P &L based on just one year since no budget yet for current year. Budget needs to be created, reviewed and approved at next month's meeting. Conference alone bringing up income levels and a few members paid late dues to get lower conference rate. AR report was also reviewed with some to be cancelled since they are clearly not renewing. Still a couple of vendors to pay. Motion was made to approve the financial report. Second and no further discussion heard. Motion carried.

Programs and Conference Update: Matt gave post-conference review. Need to solve issue of late registrations and credit shoppers (non-members mostly) and how to arrange for better seating at the 2023 event. Sold lanyards and totebags for 2023. Consider selling two sides of the tote-bags to increase revenue. Use speakers from the conference to create future program. Erosion control program was given as an example.

Legislative and Rules: All legislation is either now with committees or will be voted on. Time to comment or influence has come and gone. No big issues of concern.

New Business: After a discussion on drywells initiated by Tom with input from Bruce, a motion was made to instruct staff to create a letter to NHDES concerning the issue of drywells. The motion reads: The GSOWA board supports the correct interpretation of the current rules as we have a sense of it based on Bruce's letter and Tom's addendum to that. That drywells, while not a widely used device are beneficial in certain areas where the water table is deep enough and the rules are clear as they are written. Any other interpretation is creating rule without creating a rule. Creating rule by faults. Motion was seconded, no further discussion on the motion. Will be put in a letter as an opinion of the board. Intention to have them follow the letter of the rule and not interpret it. Matt will create a draft for the board to review at April meeting. Motion carried.

Bruce already sent a copy of his letter to Rob but has not heard anything. Similar situation to the cesspool definition and fact sheet. Tom commented about the slight misinformation about the ability of a cesspool to provide some level of treatment.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl asked question for designers, installers and evaluators. A realtor came to him about FHA loan requirements which are stricter than the state requiring that there be 75' separation to the septic tank and 100' to the leachfield. Thought we were allowed to adhere to the state setbacks and not the Federal setbacks. Lending institutions are demanding the stricter standards. Isn't there a letter the exempts us from that. Chris commented that they put on the report that the site meets all state regulations. A letter is usually sent to FHA stating it meets all state and town standards. Since we are licensed by the State of NH, that is our guidebook. At one time there was a letter that addressed the 75' issue. Tom will look for a copy of the letter. Carl has a client with a new system being asked to go through a new evaluation. Chris pressed that if a letter is written as he suggested, FHA will accept it. It can vary from one FHA representative vs another. Micah has had tanks closer but with a waiver and with proof of the waiver they have approved it. Most have not had a problem. Chris will send copy of the letter to Carl. Micah will look for his letter too. Also has a letter which mentions approved waivers.

Tom had a call about the relation between designers and evaluators authority. Can an evaluator recommend a riser or vent on a system in a letter? That could trigger the lender requiring that. Adding a vent, repair a d-box or a filter can be done without a permit if the plan did not prevent it.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim did not have anything significant to report since the conference.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry had no new items to report on from NHASH.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Nothing additional from items discussed above.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:15 p.m.