



## Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – September 27, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** (All on Zoom except where noted) Chris Albert, Aaron Wechsler, Bruce Fillmore, Carl Hagstrom, Jim Hanna, Larry Maznek, Micah Denner **Absent:** Gary Spaulding Tom Canfield, Chris Kent **Guest:** Phil Trowbridge **Staff:** Matt Gatzke, Mike Dennehy

Meeting started at 4:30 p.m.

**Minutes of August 23, 2022 Board Meetings:** Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

**Review of July and August 2022 Financial Reports:** Matt reviewed balance sheets and recapped income and expenses. More dues still coming in. Motion was made to approve both reports at the same time. Motion was seconded. Increase of people using credit cards online but still plenty via check. All in favor so motion carried.

**Conference and Future Training:** Matt discussed making a change in the hotel session room setups to accommodate more people in concurrent sessions all in the main conference area. Not going to use the remote rooms which were smaller and uncomfortable. Group agreed that we need to make this change. Attendance may be down slightly since 2023 is the first year of a new two-year cycle. Require advance sign up for each session at the time of registration. Pre-registered attendees would get first crack at seating. Have classes more distinctly be aimed for designers and for installers, less combined sessions. Need to get committee going to consider topics and speakers. Sara Heger is one to consider bringing back. Get some installers and designers to participate in the planning process. Need to get more vendors involved in sessions too. Need more 101 level courses. Residuals and PFOAs will be an evolving issue. Bruce asked if we can get list of people who signed up to take the designer and installer exam and design sessions helpful for them. Is there a way to get most recently permitted individuals. EJP hosting a program which Chris is speaking at.

**Legislative and Rules:** HB 1312 bill was resolved internally at DES so we were not involved in the topic. DES indicated they wanted GSOWA to move ahead with a bill to ban homeowner installs. Aaron felt that while GSOWA could be part of the effort but DES may be looking to avoid repercussions. Need 100% buy-in from the department and our association. Approvals have language on the back about your primary domicile. DES wants self-installation out of repair/replacement. We could be accused of having a financial stake in making it illegal. Bruce suggested more inspections and extra fees to conduct them for homeowner installed systems. There aren't enough staff resources to conduct extra inspections. We are not in a great spot to take this on either. Do we take a survey of members at the 2023 conference about the issue of homeowner installation? We would need consensus to move in either direction. Maybe the association can develop talking points about why the entire idea is not sound.

**Old Business:** None heard.

**New Business:** None heard.

**Vice Chairman Reports (Designers):** Carl reported that clients want to call in homeowner installs inspections when it is not the primary residence. The state won't inspect it.

**Vice Chairman Report (Installers):** Jim spoke of complaints from designers that the new inspectors are too strict, but as an installer he is in favor of inspectors doing their job. He has seen such poorly installed systems during an inspection. Bad workmanship.

**Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers):** Larry reported that town of Epping has moratorium on any new sewer line hookups. Also not accepting septage haulers. Unknown if they will allow onsite systems while the sewer moratorium is in place.

**Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators):** No further report.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:20 p.m.