



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – June 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Attending: (All on Zoom) Chris Albert, Bruce Fillmore, Tom Canfield, Larry Maznek, Aaron Wechsler, Jim Hanna **Absent:** Carl Hagstrom, Micah Denner, Kevin Kent **Members:** Anthony Jones with Jones and Beach **Staff:** Matt Gatzke **Guests:** Phil Trowbridge

Meeting started at 4:34 p.m.

Report from Phil Trowbridge: Two bills have been approved for Gov. signature. HB 247 (well radius and encroachment waivers) is an extensive bill and a great achievement. Will go in effect 60 days from signature. SB 229 (repair and replacement in kind) defines domestic sewage and clarifies designers can provide copies of plans for replacement systems. That one effective July 1. Change to rules must be made to match the new law changes. Do them in batches first with those things that need to be changed from last and current session (including removal of homeowner design). Grease traps and gravity grease interceptors have changes to be made due to changes in plumbing code. Phil hopes to have rule package out in the fall. Bruce asked about e-permitting check boxes about well releases. State looking to move the e-permitting system over to a new platform. It is currently custom code vs a more known platform such as Sales Force. Short fix or work-around needed until new platform is set. Chris suggested state give us its first draft of proposed rule changes concerning these changes. Bills not yet on his desk for signature. Looking at a November time frame for rules work to be done. If the rules do not address something, we have to defer to the law. Regular/other rules review will begin right after the first batch is done. All rules to be redone by 2026. Tom had concerns about changes to the e-permitting if it ends up like the new website which is not user-friendly. Need to fix daily issues with the current e-permitting system. The e-permitting site has worked well from the user's standpoint. The goal is to apply for things on line instead of mailing in things. More efficient on the staff side too. Will add features as time goes on. Matt asked if other vacancies have been filled. Scott Hazleton has been hired as new administrator. From Town of Sunapee and a designer. Hope to introduce him to GSOWA in August. Ridge Mauck also retiring in August. Jim asked for Phil's email to send along a couple of issues. Rick Treiss is retiring so North Country inspector spot will be open. Eric Scott and Josh Barker have been covering for him while on leave. Vacancies still exist in enforcement section, compliance issues, failures and unlicensed designers and installers, etc. All thanked Phil who departed Zoom by 4:55 p.m.

Matt asked Anthony Jones (member guest) introduced himself as a designer with experience in all sizes of systems. He would be a great member of the rules review committee.

Minutes of May 30, 2023 Board Meeting: Tom made a motion with Jim offering a second. No discussion heard. Motion was approved.

Review of May 31, 2023 Financial Report: Reviewed Balance Sheet with a balance of \$99,204.16. Bruce explained that the prior AR balances have been removed. Staff will address those who did not pay at the time they attempt to sign up for things. Bruce made the motion and Jim seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Education/Conference Recap: Matt sent SEP committee email from Christine Horne. GSOWA already sent her list of our class participants. So far, only two have replied so she is sending out another email to get people to sign up for the exams. Christine cannot share pass/fail by specific person's name. Two companies sent the bulk of those in the class. Chris commented that the evaluator board did not have a quorum. Chris will be in touch with Larry and his wife to get him to apply as an evaluator board member. Matt reminded how the students should have reached out themselves to get exam information. Will Larry be representing us and also NHASH. He will represent pumper's section. Public sector member is still not filled.

Legislative and Rules: Chris A. commented that Phil covered most things. Next thing to tackle is how to let people know of changes brought on about the rules programs. Water well board rules will need to be changed too. Set-back reduction form will be changing. If the well driller puts a well in a different place than on septic plan, he has to amend the septic plan and log it in on the well log report. No more recording at the state. The change in the septic plan will be reflected in the well log moving forward. Avoid the amended plan needed by the installer. Extra casing and grout can be determined by Pythagorean theory.

Tom commented that this changes loading is it will not based on area outside of the well radius. A bit of a flaw in the law. Challenge for non-conforming lots based on where the well is drilled. Tom gave a history of the issue with loading and well radius. Had an issue with subtracting the well radius as it would depend on the lot. Will it take other legislation to address loading in terms of well radius. Have to see what the 1000 rules say about lot loading. No discussion was brought up about lot loading.

New Business: Chris A. attended the May meeting of NOWRA affiliates. They continue to push the value of the online training. Meanwhile most states indicating that in-person training is more of value. In regard to summer planning meeting the thought was to involved Tom Burack. Chris will reach out to him about what he would charge. As far as a board outing, Matt checked out Ellacoya pavilion. Maybe a Thursday afternoon 2-5 p.m. Are we just inviting board or members. Need board input. Maybe tie in a board meeting. Look into a lake area location, outside deck. Mid-August date.

Old Business: Need to get rules review committee going. Still seeking some clarity on allowing stakeholders to comment on the rules. No real problem having our own committee hand over suggested rules changes. We cannot sit down with them specifically though. GSOWA could provide expert comment or opinion if asked by the agency working on its rules.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl not present. Matt to send Anthony Jones Carl's email address to send some concerns to him.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim mentioned the passing of septic service company owner, Norman "Bucky" Frink, Jr. He was well-respected in the septic industry and had been active for more than 40 years. Jim continuing to deal with poorly done designs. Plans have items that should be caught at review time. Concern is the issue of having to change the install due to plan flaws. The amount of errors and mistakes are very high. Would be a great idea for a program ... here are the most common mistakes seen. Younger generation taking over an elder's practice and it seems that no one is reviewing their work before submitting it to the state. Frustration that only the installers are catching things. Creating problems with crews and delays and inspections for all involved.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry did not have anything else to report.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): No report given.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Larry and Tom seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:46 p.m.