



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – January 31, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting started at 4:30p.m. once a quorum was established.

Guest David Bagley from Bradford Septic Service attended to learn more about the board and how things work. Guest of Jim Hanna. Matt and Chris offered comments on composition of the board and membership sections.

Minutes of December 20, 2022 Board Meeting: Tom made motion with Carl offering second. No questions. Motion carried.

Review of December 31, 2022 Financial Report: Micah and Matt reviewed report. No real changes to the report other than usual expenses. Matt and Micah need to go over the budget for new year. Conference vendor revenues are coming in. Still too many members who have not paid dues. Expect to see cleaned up when they attempt to register. Not related to any concern over our name change. Micah asked if invoices go out automatically or not? He pointed out the setting to have invoices go out automatically on a schedule you would like. Discussed various unrenewed members. Suggestion was made to write-off dues but document who did not pay. Motion made by Jim seconded by Larry. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Programs and Update: Committee met and Matt reviewed the daily program schedule for the board and status of confirmed speakers. Discussed what holes we have in the program. Larry and Micah confirmed that they would do the session for evaluations. Pumps speaker to offer one for designers and installers. Tom and Jim to do session for installers with the basics from the ground up. Need to get this out. No table seating to keep attendees in the same area of the hotel. Some discussion with Gary about doing a possible session. Hats were mentioned but need to make decision. Installer told Bruce that DES said they have until March 31 to get their credits in.

Legislative and Rules: Discussion was held on HB236 (condo waiver). DES against it. We need to consider our position as most are against it. Chris will try to attend hearing tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. and putting a letter together. Gets rid of state subdivision approval for a condo conversion and HB247-FN (no testimony against the well bill). Most in favor. Only one member replied in support of the bill. Chris called for a motion to support HB236. Gary made the motion. Bruce seconded it. Motion carried. Can't increase loading. Can't get subdivision approval after the fact. Mobile home parks that convert to cooperatives are not different.

New Business: Need to get the nominating committee together so that a slate can be developed. Matt asked who on the current board plan to renew their service. Bruce, Carl, Larry, Jim, Chris, Micah all agreed to do so. Tom and Chris K. have another year. We need to get the slate out in advance of the conference. We really need to add two new directors and keep balance of designers and installers. We are well represented with evaluators and pumpers. Chris will call Aaron. It was agreed the committee will meet. Gary's position as committee chair is also up. Does he want to continue? Ballots will be in member packets only. Monday morning, March 13 is the annual meeting.

NOWRA wants to meet with board to talk about working together. Tom Groves and Sara Heger to talk about possible affiliation with them. Education programming access, etc. Increase in use of NOWRA online learning from NH professionals. They would share revenues with us potentially. Confirm 4:30 pm on 3/14/23. All board members to attend if they can. Gary recalled in 2012 we looked in this.

Career counselor from Alvirine High School has asked for tuition-waiver for a high school student to attend both days as he is doing an apprenticeship with an excavating firm. Could spread this idea to other tech or training schools in the future. Agreed to offer both days free.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl getting calls from people who said they paid fees for new licenses, but a subcontractor is sending them out. Most have them though. One person said he did not have to submit hours yet he still got his license. Jim too said he did not get his yet. Larry, Chris A. and Carl got theirs.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim reported that inspectors are really holding feet to the fire with the Presby manual. Joints weren't glued or mechanically fastened. We have never glued them ever as we still have to be able to position piping while backfilling. Inspector says he would try joints to see if they are being glue. Jim mentioned Fastenal screw is another way to do it. Latest manual states this need for all PVC joints. Have never been called out for not doing this. Can't get the manufacturer to change their manual. Matters related to having to add extension into tees. State approves the manual, so it ties the inspectors hands to look for compliance. Micah commented on a baffle issue. Is it 5" or 8" into liquid on the inlet end. Larry commented that without a lot of pitch from house to tank, you end up with clogs. Jim said that Sunapee wants mandatory system pumping for all homes. Advertised in the local newsletter. Chris may speak to Municipal Association about towns asking for pre-approval with replacement of failed systems.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry reported about NHASH trying to create a OSHA Confined Spaces Entry at Bellemore. Inspectorcameras, David Bruce and gave a presentation on the cameras. They are not in the program but they are in the show. May do a demonstration in Larry's session and include inspectorcameras. Some complaints about how difficult the state exams are. What is the percentage of who takes and passes...based on last designers, 75% failed. Legislative Breakfast for Water Works. NHASH sponsoring and GSOWA likely too. Issues with towns and lack of enforcement of grease trap management. ENV 700 rules address what they should be doing.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Micah reminded about need to find a location for evaluator program. What else can we do for a location if not Chris Kent's place. Maybe consider going to a couple of field days with those who have inspections lined up as a back-up plan for field portion. Tom was going to work on install of the new components at Chris's place but it got installed quickly before Tom could get over there to see if it will work.

Chris commented evaluator board met last week. Going to make change to add word "failing" back into the definitions in the evaluator rules. OPLC are rewriting things and it would not take effect until the fall. Evaluators will be able to deem a field as "failing." (still need to work out the right wording). The issue is that evaluators are not qualified to evaluate the water table. Larry and Micah also to work on revisions to the SEP manual. Tom may have a commercial site with systems in various states of use and age as a potential field site.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and Jim seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:50 p.m.