



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – September 26, 2023

Attending: (All on Zoom) Chris Albert, Bruce Fillmore, Tom Canfield, Larry Maznek, Carl Hagstrom , Jim Hanna **Absent:** Micah Denner, Aaron Wechsler, Kevin Kent **Staff:** Matt Gatzke

Meeting started at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes of July 25, 2023 Board Meeting: Tom made a motion with Larry offering a second. Motion was approved.

Review of July and August 2023 Financial Reports: Chris asked if the funds had been moved to the Treasury Bill accounts. Bruce and Matt confirmed that has been completed. Not much activity in terms of revenue over the summer. Dues will be worked on in November-December. Larry made a motion to approve both reports with Carl offering a second. No further discussion. Motion was approved.

Education/Conference Recap: Matt walked board through program schedule for April 2024 conference schedule. Jonathan Buchanan from UTN is continuing to hold the dates. He will do three sessions. Matt reviewed his topics... Pumps and controls, basics of septic tanks, denitrification among them. He is to get back to us with more detail. Matt to set up a Zoom call with him and small group of board members. Matt asked about Dennis Fogg (Laconia) and others formerly with Presby to ask them to present. Bring back Karen Long for workplace safety. Will invite back most of the "usual" speakers such as Drouin and others from the state. Need to work with Scott Hazleton to determine his role at the conference. Since he is new, he may want to attend both days. Need to also get the reviewers/inspectors there to meet and mingle designers over the course of two days. Small room for a roundtable discussion with them. Try to get a rep from each type of system in NH to cover in separate sessions (design, install and inspect). Consider Ray Gordon's session on history of wastewater. Session on wipes. Jim Gove and other speakers. Dennis Healy. Gary Spaulding. Milton-CAT session just missed the mark this year. Need a fresh approach on heavy equipment topic. DOT/DMV maybe speak about ELDT for CDL licensing, violations, pre-trip inspections, med cards, etc. May need to do some wells program but include that into a session on the rules rewrites. Should hold session on new rules, changes, etc. Ethics but perhaps look for a new face from same law firm. Begin to look at the vendor promo piece.

Matt updated on keeping in touch with OPLC about remaining students to take the septic evaluator exam. Christine has retired from the office. New contact was emailed and Matt asked about when they would host another exam date.

Chris wants to pursue baseball cap, plastic scale rulers and shirts for the board of directors. If the board is willing to vote for it. Jim used to get them from DigSafe. Would get use from installers out in the field with plans. Woodrow USA which made them for Jones & Beach. Needs to be useful.

Legislative and Rules: Waiting for Scott and Phil to speak to us about the status of things. Don't want to waste time until we hear from the state. They are going to first work on the rules impacted by the recent legislative changes. Larry reported that they were to present in front of the Water Council on proposed rule rewrites.

New Business: Chris reported that clients on Merrymeeting Lake within 250' of the lake must show proof of a septic plan or have a plan from a designer. It was decided at a recent selectboard meeting and board of health officials. Tom thought it was more a Town of Durham ordinance. Any system with no record on file or that is 20 years or older, they must submit any records found or have a designer complete a certification form. Refer to meeting minutes from the town. Can a septic system evaluator do it or only a designer? Chris has a call into NH Lakes to get their impression.

Old Business: No old business heard.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl working on class with DES inspectors on things inspectors are looking for (and problems they note on site) and with Keene State College for an OSHA and ditch safety program in Jaffrey area. Looking at Oct. 25 or 26 and trying to get 3 credit hours. Not all details are set yet. GSOWA would help promote. A 6-9pm program for after work.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim spoke of a landscaper looking to get their installer's license. Local guy came to some of Jim's jobs to see how things are done. Person sat to take the exam and was surprised to be asked for 5 approved systems, permitted installers you apprenticed under and system ECA #s and other details on systems worked on. Designers and installers both being asked to show proof of these systems. How are they making this a requirement if they don't do policies as we've been told before. It could take a while to be able to apprentice on five systems. Person in question is taking one of the upcoming exam prep programs. New requirement enacted over the summer. No guidelines about what to be seen during observation of systems. Another topic to discuss with Scott Hazelton. Larry mentioned it is similar to evaluators being asked to apprentice/observe. What about liability on a job site?

Jim mentioned situation involving a well within 25' of a property line but it meets 75' setback. It is up to the well-drillers not septic person. Carl referenced recent emergency order from DES which is not yet in the rule.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry gave update on situation at Plymouth wastewater treatment plant involving lime. Plant was not taking septage for two weeks due to whatever happened there. A few companies have had their pumping tanks implode. Need to oil the springs on their tank relief valves. Something that may not be covered by insurance.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Larry and Patrice to connect with Chris go online and get Larry set to be considered for seat on the board of septic evaluators. Carl asked if it was a requirement to give your social security number when about to renew. No one knew for certain but most agreed they would not provide that personal/private information.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and Jim seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:40 p.m.