

**Town of Chester**  
**WPCA**  
203 Middlesex Avenue  
Chester, CT 06412



telephone: 860-526-0013  
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www.chesterct.org  
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Chester Water Pollution Control Authority  
Regular Meeting, April 19, 2016

### **Call to Order**

The Chester water Pollution Control Authority held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Chester Town Hall, Conference Room C, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT. In attendance were Bert Armington, Chairman, Felise Cressman, Ed Ward and Sam Chorches. Chairman Armington called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Audience of Citizens – none.**

### **Old business:**

**Armington moved** that the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting be approved. Motion **seconded by Ward** approved unanimously. **Cressman moved** that we approve the minutes of March 15, 2016, **seconded by Chorches** and approved unanimously.

**Pump station:** Armington reported that a second pump has been ordered from Carlsen Systems, LLC at the same price as the pump we ordered last year, \$7,130. The plan is to install the new pump in place of pump number 1, then investigate the rebuilding of pump number 1 as a spare.

**Pattaconk Restaurant:** Photos were presented that show the overflow at the manhole directly behind 33 Main Street, the Pattaconk Restaurant. Armington confirmed that there can be no doubt that the clogged lines were a direct result of activities at the Pattaconk Restaurant. **Armington moved** that all related correspondence be read into the WPCA minutes, **seconded by Cressman** and approved unanimously.

Mr. Clayton Senger  
7700 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Apt. 227  
Austin, TX 78731-1165

March 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Senger,

I am Bert Armington, the Chairman of the Chester Water Pollution Control Authority, the agency responsible for the management of our Town's sanitary sewer system. On Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> I received an emergency call from the Deep River WPCA who manages the operations and

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maintenance of our Chester sewer facilities, telling me that there had been a sewer overflow into the Pattaconk brook, the direct result of a clogged line from your restaurant. Investigation showed grease and paper towels blocking the line sufficiently to overflow the manhole directly behind 33 Main Street. A service was called to jet the line, the required report was made to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, cleanup, resurfacing and reseeded of the affected area was completed.

None of this should have happened. The restaurant has an Automatic Grease Recovery Unit which is properly installed, and if operated and maintained diligently, would protect the system from this type of problem. Somebody is being negligent, and in a small town with a small sewer system and more than a few restaurants, the impact of each establishment is significant. The cost of cleaning up this situation was also significant, Deep River's charge of \$1220.19 plus jetting the sewer line \$1176.00.

First of all, all State statutes require that grease from every restaurant must be disposed of through an authorized grease removal service. Granted, this costs money, but that must be an accepted part of the cost of doing business. Somehow the staff of the Pattaconk Restaurant is allowing grease to bypass the systems in place and infiltrate into our sewer system in quantities sufficient to create blockages. This is unacceptable, and it costs the taxpayers a substantial amount to have grease removed from the system regularly.

Second, the rest rooms should be provided with electric hand dryers instead of the present paper towels. It seems evident that if paper towels are flowing into the sewer system, the only possible explanation for the infiltration is that they must have been flushed down the toilets. This would be an easy fix, and we respectfully request the installation of electric hand dryers in each public rest room. We would sincerely appreciate any efforts you can make to address these situations within your business establishment as soon as possible.

In light of these factors, the Town of Chester not only requests reimbursement in the amount of \$2,396.19 for expenses incurred on your direct behalf during the month of March, 2016, but we also request a written response to this letter detailing the steps that *Pattaconk 1850 Bar & Grille* will take to resolve these issues in order to prevent any recurrence of this or similar problems, a timetable for their implementation, as well as follow up documentation of progress. The Town of Chester requests a response within thirty days of the date of this letter. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this serious matter which affects all residents and businesses in Chester.

Sincerely,  
Bert Armington  
Chairman, Chester WPCA

Cc: Lauren Gister, Chester First Selectwoman  
Peter Kehayias  
Robert Galbraith  
Lee Vito, Chester Sanitarian

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***On March 23, the following email was received from Pattaconk Bar and Grille:***

To the powers to be. We received a letter with a bill for cleaning the sewers, first the sewer bill is in the landlords name, pete kahais, you have not had a meeting for 5 months and when you do you say problems at the pattaconk? and send me a bill, your note takers need to take and post complete notes, we have been inspected and have NEVER BEEN TOLD THERE WAS AN ISSUE, NOW WE ARE TO BLAMED FOR THE TOWNS SEWER PROBLEM, you have no inspector, shame on you!!! if i am to put heat blowers in the bathroom then everyone in town must do the same, i have the trap cleaned every 3-4 month by sanitroll, we also pay taxes, so for to say the tax payer should not bare the burden REALLY, WHAT ARE WE?? IF THERE IS A ISSUE WE WILL WORK TO RESOLVE IT WITH YOUR GUIDANCE, we can not fix it if we are not told of a problem, stop hiding behind your closed door meetings and letters, we will retain council and fight this. If you got a letter like this at your home what would your reaction be? we have always tried to work with the town on what we need to.

Also did any bridge construction have to do with this??  
How many restaurants are on the system?  
If the tax payers pay a sewer bill, then are the sewers properly maintained?

Please contact us so we can resolve this matter

Pattaconk

Robert  
860-526-8146

***On March 25, the following letter was sent to Robert Galbraith:***

March 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Galbraith,

Your letter brings up a few interesting points. We hold WPCA meetings as necessary. Many of our routine issues are handled through email; when we have an issue and a meeting, they are open to the public. The agenda and minutes are posted on the town of Chester website and in Town Hall for all to see. The letter we sent to you was also sent to Mr. Kehayias and the owner of your business so that you can work out a plan as to who is to pay the bills incurred by the town on your behalf. The issue occurred in the manhole directly behind your place of business. You are the only user of that lateral, hence the overflow was caused by your sewage. You are not being blamed for "the town's sewer problem", but you are responsible for this particular event, which cost the Town of Chester \$2,396.19 to resolve (I just realized that there was a typographical error on

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the letter sent to you, there was an extra 2 in the total figure.) This had nothing to do with the bridge construction, as your lateral is behind the building, and yes we maintain the sewers with complete cleaning twice a year.

We are not required to have an inspector. We hired one when the AGRU units were installed to provide guidance. Per DEEP and Chester WPCA regulations, it is the responsibility of restaurants to maintain their equipment and inspection paperwork. The sanitarian makes a general inspection regularly. We are here to assist you and the town, but when it is obvious that your sewer line is clogged, it is your responsibility to accept that financial burden.

The reason we are strongly suggesting that you install electric hand dryers is because there were large quantities of paper toweling in the clog debris which we cleaned up. This was coming out of the manhole directly behind your establishment. If you had electric hand dryers, there would be no possibility of someone flushing paper towels down the toilet, hence incurring the expense of cleaning a clogged line. Other restaurants have not had this problem, hence there is no need to ask them to do this.

Sincerely,  
Bert Armington  
Chairman, Chester WPCA  
Cc: Lauren Gister  
Peter Kehayais  
Clayton Senger

***The letter to Mr. Senger was misaddressed, and sent a second time. As of this date, there has been no response.***

**New business:**

Armington pointed out that Pete Lewis suggested that we continue our regularly scheduled system cleaning as soon as the Main Street construction is complete. As this is a regularly scheduled event, no vote is necessary.

Cressman asked if WPCA has a new inspector of grease traps, or is it mandated. Nobody has ever told us to have an inspector. According to the DEEP guidance, it is the responsibility of each restaurant to maintain AGRU equipment and have on premises inspection paperwork for a period of five years. Chorches suggested that we send a note to all restaurants reminding them of their inspection and reporting responsibilities.

Motion to adjourn **made by Ward, seconded by Armington**, approved unanimously at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bert Armington  
Chairman, WPCA