

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT WPCA MEETING

Town of Chester, Connecticut
Water Pollution Control Authority
February 20, 2018
Regular Meeting
203 Middlesex Avenue
Chester, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Ed Ward, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: Sam Chorches, , Mark Riggio, Ed Meehan, Ed Ward, John Ely, Deep River, Pete Lewis, Deep River and William Carlisle Schaeffer, Little House Brewing Co.

Ed Ward welcomed Mark Riggio as the new member to the WPCA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/16/18 meeting as presented. Sam Chorches seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Microbrewery

Ed Ward reported that the previously submitted application for a microbrewery to be located at 16 Main Street was reviewed by the WPCA and rejected due to current sewer ordinance and DEEP regulations (a brewery is categorized as an “industrial plant” which is prohibited). However, the Town and WPCA support a brewery establishment, and there may be a different interpretation to the ordinance/regs. Ed Ward will follow up with Don Gonyea, Environmental Analyst DEEP and the Town Attorney. If necessary, the WPCA is willing to pursue a revision to the Ordinance. Any change/revision to an Ordinance requires a Public Hearing and Town Meeting. Ed Meehan reported that Deep River’s requirements will be applicable if the application is approved.

When the original application was rejected, Mr. Schaefer withdrew his appeal and has now resubmitted his application to begin the process again.

Mr. Schaeffer was present and provided a brief overview of the brewing process and waste water produced via said process. His presentation included the quantity of beer to be brewed (93 gallons of beer at a time, types of cleaners used in the process (cleaners used are septic safe), separation of grain and hops (the grain is used as farm feed and the hops are composted), the yeast would be re-used and overall, most of the waste water is just water. The brewery, if approved, will not have a kitchen facility and no food will be produced on site. There are no fats, oils or grease in the brewing process. The business currently has federal approval and local sign-offs are necessary prior to applying for the state permits.

Mr. Chorches requested that Mr. Schaeffer provide data from current Connecticut breweries. Mr. Schaeffer will provide same.

The WPCA thanked Mr. Schaeffer for his presentation

Real Time Pump Station Operation via PSTA System

John Ely and Pete Lewis, Deep River representatives, provided an update on the pump station operations; including recent pump issues (loss of power and communication over the Thanksgiving holiday and repercussions of same). This incident cost the WPCA \$7,000. Eversource accepted no responsibility for the incident and Ed Ward will follow-up with the First Selectwoman and the Town's insurance company regarding this incident/loss. A schematic of the current system was distributed to WPCA members.

As a result of this incident, a new pump was installed and Mr. Ely recommended that the Mission system of communication be utilized. This system provides a wireless RTU and communicates to operators via e-mail and an app. The installation of the new system should be completed by February 23rd.

Deep River representatives provided an overview of the pumping station and the condition of several of the manholes/mains. Grease/oil build up in several areas is an on-going concern. The system is cleaned twice a year and the next cleaning is scheduled in May/June. Decay located at manhole 20 will need to be addressed. Jacobson and Associates will be contacted to review the conditions at this area.

At the March meeting, the WPCA will discuss the on-going grease issues in the system. The restaurants will be contacted the importance of complying with the regulations will be stressed. If conditions do not improve, enforcement may include additional surcharges to the commercial/restaurant sector. A copy of the regulations/ordinance will be e-mailed it to WPCA members.

Pete Lewis suggested investigating the protocol used at the restaurants regarding the use of "fryolaters" and the age and installation methods used on the grease traps located in the restaurants.

John Ely recommended that the generator at the pump station be sandblasted and painted to rid it of rust.

Current WPCA Budget Update

The WPCA budget report was included in the Commission's packet and includes the amount spent to date on "call outs" (approximately \$7,000, excluding parts). The EDU amount is based on data provided by Connecticut Water and the Deep River bill is based on data provided by a meter. The O&M fee paid to Deep River is \$1120 per month.

The next fiscal year's budget process will begin in April/May. A copy of the budget will be provided to WPCA members for review.

The next WPCA meeting is March 20, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Sam Chorches made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk