

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT WPCA MEETING
Town of Chester, Connecticut
Water Pollution Control Authority
Regular Meeting
March 16, 2021
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Meehan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance included: Ed Meehan, Chairman, Ian McLachlan, Sam Chorches, and Mark Riggio.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Chorches made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/16/21 meeting as presented. Mark Riggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

4 Water Street Pump Station Lease – April 21, 1982

Ed Meehan distributed, via email, a chronology of the 4 Water Street connection to the system and exemption of user charges including:

11-18- 1982 WPCA Minutes – Cook agreed to access to 4 Water Street for test borings for location of pump station. Cook informs WPCA he wants to plug into system and get a special permit to any system excess capacity after his on-site system capacity is exhausted or fails.

1-20-1982 WPCA Minutes - Dave Royston (WPCA Atty) reports to Authority that Cook will agree to entire system on his property and wants special permit for future tie in.

2-17-1982 “ Map Showing Land and Easements to be Acquired from Gregory Cook by Town of Chester WPCA, Scale 1”=40’,” This map is referenced in Agreement signed with Cook , dated April 21, 1982, recorded at Vol.51/page 1125, map index #787. This map shows: (1) 2,100 Sq. Ft. pump station location acquired from Cook for \$10. (2) location of temporary construction easements and permanent 20 ‘ easement for 8” PVC pipe connection from Water Street to pump station, and (3) location of the 8” PVC pipe and relocate and reconstruct the leaching galleries to replace one (1) removed gallery.

2-24-82 WPCA Minutes - Motion authorizing Chairman Strauss to negotiate Agreement with Cook unanimously approved.

3-2-1982 Letter from Royston to Madorin (Cook’s Atty). Royston reports WPCA’s original Agreement proposal will be revised to change 15-year limit use charges exemption from date of connection into system.

- It appears that as the effective date approached, the 15-year limit was changed to “perpetual use”

3-24-1982 WPCA Minutes – Royston reports revised Agreement submitted to Cook and he will sign it.

4-21-1982 WPCA Minutes report revised Agreement received from Cook. Motion unanimously approved to authorize Chairman Strauss to sign and Royston to prepare letter to Cook indicating conditions of connecting into system.

4-21-1982 Revised Agreement with Cook, page 6 Section 6(b) "That the connection into the sewer system is limited to the equivalent amount of gallonage capacity of the reserve area used in the aforementioned relocation" and Section 6 (d) "That said connection shall be exempt from use charges".

4-29-1982 Royston letter to Cook reports Agreement signed and includes paragraph describing WPCA's requirements for connecting into sewer system.

5-7-1982 Cook submits special permit application for "Chester Breakfast Works" providing estimate for restaurant's wastewater flows at 550 gpd and stating grease trap design specifications will be submitted later.

5-14-1987 WPCA Minutes Cook granted special permit to connect into sewer system, "He would be assessed on 16.5 EDU's at a cost of approximately \$1,200-\$1,300.

10-27-87 WPCA Minutes report 4 Water Street sewer connection complete.

Ian McLachlan noted the issue will be developing calculations to determine what, the "above capacity", may be and what the capacity of the septic system was in 1982. These calculations will be beneficial in determining the potential EDU fee for the property. But the initial issue is both parties interpretation of Section 6(b) 'limited to the equivalent amount of gallonage capacity of the reserve area'

Questions for WPCA consideration included:

- Section 6 (b) "sewer system gallonage is limited to the gallonage capacity of the relocated and reconstructed leaching galleries."
 - What is the available gallonage capacity of the reconstructed septic system reserve area?
 - Does the annual wastewater gallonage into the town system exceed the reserve area gallonage?
 - If the wastewater sewer gallonage exceeds the reserve area gallonage, is the difference now subject to annual EDU user fee billing?

Next steps:

- Continue to review WPCA minutes to determine if Mr. Cook and WPCA every agreed to the reserve area gallonage capacity amount subsequent to the May 1987 Permit to Connect to the System.
Discuss with Jacobson the calculation of the reserve area and compare with CT Water Company data. (CWC Annual gallons used at 4 Water Street 15/16 135,000 gallons 16/17 291,000 gallons 17/18 333,000 gallons 18/19 282,000 gallons 19/20 225,000 gallons.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion of EDU Methodology and Draft Clarifying Language

Ed Meehan will follow-up with Ed Ward and Deep River personnel relative to updating the definition of an “EDU”. Both Chester and Deep River bases the EDU on CT Water Company data. Note that Land Use classifications; i.e. Residential, Commercial, etc. play a role in determining EDU rates.

Revisions and Update of 2006 Sewer Service Area Map

Jacobson is revising the Sewer Service Area Map to include several businesses and residences that have tied into the system in recent years. The map will also note that the gravity sewer and force main are now part of the system. GIS will be instrumental in updating the map.

NEW BUSINESS

River Tavern’s Compliance with Discharge Permit/AGRU Reports

Ed Meehan reported that, to date, River Tavern has not been submitting their AGRU reports (10 months past due). Jacobson has been providing the monthly report forms to the restaurant owner for completion and his signature. The restaurant owner is aware that the WPCA understands the impact that Covid-19 has had on restaurants. All other restaurants have provided reports regularly during the Pandemic.

Ian McLachlan made a motion to forward a Notice of Violation (NOV) to River Tavern due to their lack of compliance with submitting reports to the WPCA. Mark Riggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that the NOV will be copied to the property owner.

8 N Main Street – Permit to Connect Residence within Recommended Sewer Service Area, Section 4-1 WPCA Regulations

Mr. Archambault, 8 N. Main Street, has requested permission to hook into the sewer system (his septic system is failing). Brian Curtis is reviewing the design and it is anticipated that this connection will tie into an existing manhole.

Sam Chorches made a motion to permit Tom Archambault, 8 N. Main Street, to connect to the system as requested. Ian McLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

January-February 2021 Compliance Log Report

Dave Campbell’s Compliance report for Jan/Feb was included in packet. All users, exception River Tavern, as noted above, are in compliance.

Ed Meehan plans to accompany Dave on inspections and it is anticipated that ultimately the CT. River Area Health District will inspect restaurants on behalf of the WPCA. Due to the pandemic, the Health District has been unable to provide this service. Ed will discuss further with the First Selectman.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ed Meehan will follow up with Ed Ward relative to Masonicare’s (Chester Village West) bond. Masonicare have their own wastewater treatment plant.

WPCA members discussed the possibility of “incentives” to obtain more users to the system. It was suggested that perhaps Sustainable Chester would be interested in promoting the system. Ed Meehan will collaborate with Deep River on possible incentives for new users.

ADJOURNMENT

Sam Chorches made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mark Riggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk