

## MINUTES

### **CHESTER WPCA SPECIAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 8,2021**

### **CHESTER MEETING HOUSE 7:30 PM**

1. Call to order. Ed Meehan convened the special meeting at 7:30 pm. Present were Ed Ward, Sam Chorches, Ian McLachlan and Mark Riggio. Also, Heather Riebold, representing Lazarus Investment Group, LLC.
2. River Tavern – Appeal of Cease and Desist, Dated May 26,2021  
Ed Meehan reported that Jonathan Rapp contacted him to say he would not attend this hearing because of work obligations and nothing further to add at this point. Ms. Riebold stated she was present representing the property owner not the business owner, Mr. Rapp.

WPCA members reviewed and discussed the communications sent to River Tavern since January 2021 requesting compliance with the Town of Chester’s clean water DEEP discharge permit which requires monthly reporting of AGRU (Automatic Grease Removal Units) for all restaurants in Chester center. River Tavern appealed the Cease-and-Desist notice issued May 26,2021, which imposed a \$2,400 fine for noncompliance for the months of January, February, March and April 2021.

In summary, since January 20,2021, the WPCA sent Mr. Rapp ten (10) requests to submit the required monthly reports for January, February, March and April. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the WPCA’s authorized representative inspected River Tavern’s AGRU and found it not operational, no service records posted, not properly cleaned and set to run. Requests for compliance have included reminder notices, two notices of violation and two notice of cease and desist.

Mr. Ward moved that the WPCA deny River Tavern’s appeal and issue the fine of \$2,400 for the reasons discussed above. Mr. Riggio seconded the motion. Mr. McLachlan clarified that this fine does not include the \$200 per

diem that the Authority discussed in May. This was agreed and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meehan will prepare the notice of decision to River Tavern and the \$2,400 fine will be deposited to WPCA's account.

Ms. Riebold asked if River Tavern is now in compliance? Ed Meehan reported that monthly reports are now being submitted to Jacobson and Associates and a copy of the AGRU compliance log will be sent to Lazarus Group LLC for its records.

3. Approval of August 17,2021 Minutes. Mr. Chorchres moved the August 17,2021 minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Ed Ward and unanimously approved. Members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Helchowski's accurate and concise reporting.

4. Old Business

- a) 4 Water Street 1982 Pump Station Agreement exempting annual user fee charges.

Mr. Meehan reported that on September 9, 2021, he talked with Mr. Cook, regarding WPCA's letter, dated August 30,2021, that requested a meeting to discuss 4 Water Street's exemption status. Mr. Cook politely and firmly said no he would not participate in user fee payments because of the additional costs to his tenants.

- b) American Rescue Act Plan WPCA Projects Request to Board of Selectman.

Mr. Meehan reported that he has not heard back from the Board but believes Selectmen and Board of Finance are reviewing the guidelines and timing for eligible ARPA projects. On September 10<sup>th</sup> the manholes and sewer line behind the Colt House will be jetted and video to determine damaged condition, with this information Jacobson Associates will prepare a preliminary cost estimate. At the pump station Top Notch electrical has been out to assess options for a new generator. It was determined that power supply at the transformer first needs to be evaluated by Eversource to assure reliability. Eversource has been

contacted and requested to meet with Top Notch to coordinate adequate service for the emergency generator.

5. Adoption of FY 2021-2022 budget and setting EDU User Fees

WPCA members reviewed the EDU data for residential and mixed-use properties connected to the sewer system. This data compares the past fiscal year 2020 EDU count with the proposed EDU count for 2021 budget based on property land uses and water consumption volumes provided by the CT. Water Company for the quarter ending August 31, 2021. The analysis indicates lower water use for mixed-use properties, from 94 EDU to 89 and for residential uses from 46 to 43 because of renovations at 2-4-6 Maple Street reducing dwelling units from 4 to 1. To maintain the FY21-22 EDU fee at \$750 for residential and \$800 for mixed use properties members discussed using \$30,850 from the fund balance. This transfer is projected to result in an estimated June 30, 2022 fund balance of \$34,350. The consensus favoring this strategy observed that there will be two new Main Street connections coming online this fall.

Ian McLachlan moved to approve the budget for FY21-22 at \$134,300. Residential EDU fee is \$750, and the commercial/mixed EDU fee is \$800. The fund balance transfer to the FY21-22 budget will \$30,850. Seconded by Ed Ward and unanimously approved. Ed Meehan will notify the Tax Collector of the FY21-22 EDU fee charges and file the legal notices of budget adoption as required.

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Submitted, Ed Meehan, Chairman