

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 6:00PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, and Polly Pobuda.

ABSENT: Jim Surber and Joe Toro.

Chairman Denton Butler called the hearing to order at 6:00PM.

The proposed Sewer Service Area Map as drafted by the WPCA's engineering company, CDM Smith, was reviewed and discussed. Chairman Denton Butler noted that larger copies of the proposed map were hung on either end of the walls of the room in which the hearing was being held.

Mr. Butler reminded all present that the WPCA is a seven-member appointed board, comprised of five users and two non-users. He noted that the group acts and relies upon Connecticut General Statutes, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and their consulting engineer(s) (CDM Smith). Mr. Butler provided a brief history behind the updating of the map, noting that there had been many discussions by the group between both regular and special meetings. He explained that the Board intends to submit an updated map with a Sewer Line Extension and Evaluation Study to the DEEP. He noted that the WPCA had attempted to put forth a revised sewer service area map in 2012 and it was held up between DEEP and OPM, being ultimately rejected on fourteen points between the two agencies as it was deemed non-compliant with either the State's Plan of Comprehensive Development or the objectives of the DEEP. In early 2015, guidance from the DEEP indicated the update was necessary, Mr. Butler explained. He explained that the renderings available for public review will reflect the 2004 map, noting that it is as things exist today, along with the 2012 suggested changes, noting that these were never accepted, and finally, the proposed adjustments. Mr. Butler then reviewed these. He explained that a principal consideration in establishing the map was for the protection of aquifers and watercourses.

David Rosengren of 496 Town Hill Road made an inquiry regarding what the new areas to be effected will be as part of the proposed map.

Tom Hinman of 209 Town Hill Road opined that the adoption of a revised sewer service map is happening too quickly and would prefer to know for certain whether he will be forced to hook up to it if this latest revision of the map is approved and accepted. Mr. Butler explained that the map, in and of itself, does not compel people to hook up, as he noted the properties that are presently not hooked up to sewers (Fairview Avenue and Johnnycake Lane) despite being included as part of the current 2004 map. Mr. Butler explained that at this time there is no development, no density, no soil conditions, and/or no septic failures that would warrant that this area should have the high prioritization for sewers. He explained that this area is of less concern than is the area of Pine Meadow and Cottage Street.

Regina Wexler of 116 Town Hill Road questioned whether current regulations require compulsory hookup. She also questioned what the exceptions are if hookup is not compulsory.

Mr. Rosengren referred to his tenure as a member of the WPCA, and recalled that certified letters had been sent to those thirty-eight (38) sewer line abutters who had not hooked up, and a list of criteria for deferments was created. The differences between deferments and exceptions was briefly reviewed.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Rosengren, Mr. Butler reported that an asset evaluation team has been formed and is charged with analyzing a call for Requests for Proposal for the sale of either the town's sewer and/or water assets. He noted that the first meeting of this group will take place on July 12, 2016.

Mark Stoffer of 130 Town Hill Road noted that he had recently spoken with WPCA member Joe Toro regarding the work being done in terms of revising the Regulations of the WPCA and questioned when they will be done. Mr. Butler reported that this Board is working on this, noting that he and the late Mr. Roy Litchfield had pulled together rules and regulations from seven or eight communities. He explained that they had settled on some common language in some instances and had gotten to the point of putting together thirteen segments very broadly. Mr. Butler noted that with the work on the schematics that Mr. LeClaire has also undertaken, the group will return to this work in the next sixty days with the goal of having something in draft form late fall or early winter.

Ms. Wexler explained that what these revised regulations will say about compulsory hook-up is the crux of her concern.

Mr. Butler noted he would make available the draft report that will accompany the Sewer Service Area Map prepared by CDM Smith.

The public hearing was closed at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk