

Town of Middlefield, Connecticut



Water Pollution Control Authority Regular Meeting March 5, 2025 Minutes

Call to Order by Gregory P. Makuch, Chairman at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present: Gregory P. Makuch, Patricia Flynn, Ken Hogan and Peter Sibley. Also present: Rob Poturnicki, Ex-Officio (non voting) and part time WPCA employee. Absent: Nate Kirschner and Robert Monthei.

Motion by Patricia Flynn to approve the agenda, 2nd by Peter Sibley. Motion carried.

Motion by Peter Sibley to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2024, 2nd by Ken Hogan. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Lisa McCabe of the Lakeview Estates Association was in attendance. Lisa expressed the Association's concerns regarding the continuing repairs within Lakeview Estates. The sewer repairs that require an excavation within the roadway is a concern. These roadway repairs (road patches) are going to reduce the life of the roadway pavement. The excavations made in the lawn areas are causing shifting of the soil and settlement. When and what is the WPCA going to do about the problems with the sewer?

Chairman responded:

Nothing can be done anytime soon. The problem requires a very costly infrastructure improvement. The WPCA's consulting engineer was unable to submit a complete STEAP application in time to apply for the current round of STEAP grants.

The concept to correct the apparent high pressure issue which is the cause of continuing sewer repairs is to create a "reduced pressure zone". This "reduced pressure zone" would be separate from the Lake Beseck pressure zone. This "reduced pressure zone" would include the 22 grinder pumps at Lakeview Estates and possibly Duplex Grinder Pump Stations # 333 and #335 located in King Road. The pumps within the newly created "reduced pressure zone" would

discharge to a tank open to atmospheric pressure. The tank would have sufficient reserve storage in the event of pump failures. Sewage from the tank would flow by gravity into a new duplex grinder pump station. The discharge of this new duplex grinder pump station would be connected to the Lake Beseck pressure zone and therefore discharge into the Lake Beseck sewer system. By creating this new “reduced pressure zone” for Lakeview Estates, the static head pressure and the pipe friction losses would be dramatically reduced at Lakeview Estates therefore reducing the pressure.

Old Business:

- 22 Lake Road: pending connection to the public sewer. The WPCA fees have been paid.
- 24 Massasoit Road: The demolition of the structure has not yet taken place. The sewer lateral is to be disconnected prior to the demolition.
- 32 Merrimack Road: pending connection to the public sewer. The sewer assessment (\$15,223.38) has been paid. The connection fee (\$750.00) and sewer permit fee (\$25.00) are to be paid prior to installing the sewer connection.
- 43 Lake Shore Drive: the WPCA's electric meter has been relocated to the garage (reference: WPCA meeting of Nov. 6, 2024). The actual electrical tie-over by Eversource has been rescheduled for March 10, 2025.
- Update: STEAP Grant for wastewater infrastructure improvements. Brian Curtis P.E. of Jacobson Associates has sent a set of completed drawings and documents of the proposed infrastructure improvements for the Brookside Pump Station to DEEP for a technical review. After DEEP's technical review, the drawings and documents will be revised accordingly. The next step will be the bidding of the project. The scope of the infrastructure improvements for the Mattabeseck Road Pump Station will be determined based on the amount of remaining STEAP grant money after the bidding of the Brookside Drive Pump Station.
- Lakeview Estates: continue to have issues resulting in substantial sewer repairs. See Public Comments above.

New Business

- Introduction to the workings of Air and Vacuum Relief Valves. The Chairman handed out information and discussed the workings of “Combination Air and Vacuum Relief Valves” a.k.a. Air/Vac valves. There are two air/vac valve stations positioned at the high points along the 8-inch sewer main from the Mattabeseck Pump Station to Meriden. These valves have two functions: to allow air to escape from the pipeline (trapped air increases pipe losses) and to prevent a vacuum from occurring within the pipeline when the pipeline is drained down. There are two air/vac valve stations located at high points of Lakeview Estates. Based on the best available information, the remaining relief valves within the Lake Beseck system are air release valves without the vacuum release feature.
- Review of the Middlefield WPCA's “Sanitary Sewer House Connections - Procedures, Materials and Installation Requirements”. The Chairman handed out copies of the Sanitary Sewer House Connections. There is a proposed gravity sewer lateral connection to the existing 8-inch P.V.C. gravity sewer main in Kickapoo Road for #32

Merrimack Road. Per the WPCA's requirements, a machine tap (i.e. shell cutter, hole saw) and an approved saddle are necessary for proper flow through the pipeline and to prevent infiltration of groundwater into the pipeline.

- Motion by Greg Makuch to elect Peter Sibley as Treasurer. 2nd by Patricia Flynn. Motion carried.

Report of System Repairs.

- Sewer main break in the roadway fronting Unit #2 Lakeview Estates. Excavated and repaired by Cahill Company on January 20, 2025. This break may not be the result of the recurring high pressure issues for this area. A large rock was found over the top of the main. This break also triggered several grinder pump alarms at Lakeview Estates. The pressure sensing switch failed at Unit #22 Lakeview Estates and was replaced by the Williamson Pump and Motor Company on January 21, 2025.
- Rob Poturnicki reported the following grinder pump repairs: #15 Lakeview Place (GPS-330); #17, 27, 29, and 31 Powder Hill Road (properties discharge to GPD-333 in King Road); #20 Algonquin Road (GPS-37) and Lake Shore Drive at Iroquois Road (GPD-3).
- Ken Hogan recently walked the Easement/ROW (former trolley line) from the Mattabeseck Road Pump Station to Black Pond and noted that the area has not been cleared of low growth vegetation and small trees (reference: WPCA meeting of November 6, 2024). This growth will hinder access to the 8-inch P.E. sewer main in the event of a repair.

Adjourn

- Motion by Ken Hogan to adjourn the meeting of March 5, 2025, 2nd by Peter Sibley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Prepared by
Gregory P. Makuch
WPCA Chairman