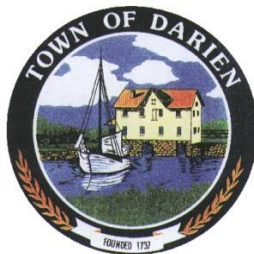


TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
2 RENSRAW ROAD - TOWN HALL
DARIEN, CT 06820-5397
TELEPHONE (203) 656-7382



CRAIG J. FLAHERTY, P.E., CHAIRMAN
ROBERT HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN
M. REESE HUTCHISON III, SECRETARY
SUSAN R. CAMERON
PETER VAN WINKLE, ESQ.

**TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th 2023, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM
IN PERSON, ROOM 206, 2 RENSRAW ROAD-TOWN HALL, DARIEN, CT 06820
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA EMAIL OR IN PERSON**

ATTENDANCE: Craig Flaherty, P.E. Chairman
Robert Hill, Vice-Chair
Reese Hutchison, Secretary
Susan Cameron

ABSENT: Peter Van Winkle

STAFF: Edward L. Gentile Jr. P.E. Director of Public Works
Darren Oustafine, P.E. Assistant Director of Public Works

OTHER: Jonathan Olmsted
Sonia Rye
Jinggao Li
Thomas Haack
Valeria Baron
Chris Piccaro
Dane Vrabac
Suzanne Dean
Joseph Lazzaro

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. by Mr. Flaherty. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3rd 2023. DISCUSSION AND ACTION. Page 1 "Geary" to "Gery". Page 2, 1st sentence in item 7, change "The property at Weed Beach immediately adjacent to the pump station theoretically for use by sewer commission, but they do not use it currently but to reserve the right to." to "The property at Weed Beach immediately adjacent to the pump station for use by sewer commission. They do not use it currently but to reserve the right to." Page 3, item 9f, change "BYPASS 9/29/23" to BYPASS-SSO 9/29/23".

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. SEWER USER FEE APPEALS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

a) 338 MIDDLESEX ROAD, JONATHAN OLMSTED

Mr. Olmsted was present. During January-February the Olmsted's were traveling, a neighbor saw some pooling of water on the low area of property and sent them email. On March 6th, they had it repaired. The water that came from broken pipeline went into the ground. The repair was done in March and although the water consumption did decrease, compared to the previous years it still looks elevated.

- ** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE APPEAL PENDING MORE INFORMATION.**
- ** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b) 13 FOX HILL LANE, STEVEN WRIGHT

No representation. The Sewer department recommends the minimum charge of \$274.34 for this location.

- ** MR. HILL MADE THE MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO THE MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$274.34.**
- ** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) 8 GREAT HILL ROAD, SONIA I. RYE

Ms. Rye was present. There was leak. The months that were used to calculate the charges for this year were Nov-Feb.

- ** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$444.78.**
- ** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) 55 HOLLY LANE, JINGGAO LI & YONGMEI SHEN

Mr. Li was present. The increase in charges was due a leak in the water meter.

- ** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGERS TO \$465.96**
- ** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e) 36 KNOLLWOOD LANE, THOMAS & OLGA HAACK

Mr. Haack was present. Mr. Haack had a leak and the leak was repaired.

- ** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$593.04.**
- ** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

f) 176 NEARWATER LANE, VALERIA & JONATHAN BARON

Ms. Baron had a leak in January in her irrigation system. Ms. Baron had the leak repaired from her irrigation company. Mr. Hill would like to see the receipt from the irrigation company.

- ** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE APPEAL PENDING MORE INFORMATION.**
- ** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

g) 35 BEACH DRIVE, CAROL S. PICCARO

Mr. Piccaro was present. The months of Dec-March were used to calculate the possible charges for the year. The sewer department recommends a charge of \$274.34.

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$274.34, THE MINIMUM CHARGE.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) 17 CASEMENT STREET, JANET & JOSEPH LAZZARO ***TAKEN OUT OF ORDER***

The appeal was split into two pieces. The first appeal considered was to decide if there was enough evidence to find that there was a leak that warranted a reduction in the sewer bill. The second appeal was to decide if there is reason to eliminate billing based upon appellant assertion that house was not occupied.

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$274.34, THE MINIMUM CHARGE.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED 3-1 WITH MR. HUTCHISON ABSTAINING.**

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO DENY MR. LAZZARO AMENDED BILL TO ZERO DOLLARS AND TO BILL \$274.34**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED 3-1 WITH MR. HUTCHISON ABSTAINING**

i) 2 DEERFIELD RD, DANE VRABAC

Mr. Vrabac was present, there was a leak and it was repaired. The months of Feb-April were used to calculate the charges for the year.

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$734.24.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

j) 19 BARRINGER RD, SUZANNE & TOM DEAN

Ms. Dean was present. The month of November was removed from the calculations. The months of Dec-March were used to calculate the charges.

****MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$381.24.**

**** MS. CAMERON WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

k) 76 SEDGWICK AVENUE, CAROLL STREET LLC

****MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER CHARGES TO \$0.00.**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. WEED BEACH, NEARWATER P.S. SAILBOAT STORAGE REQUEST. DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

Request made from Parks & Rec. Mr. Gentile supports helping out for a short period of time, October through April, as a one time agreement.

****MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW PARKS AND REC TO STORE THE BOAT FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL. BEFORE OR AFTER THAT WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO FIND AN ALTERNATE LOCATION.**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

a. PHASE II SANITARY SEWER REHAB (ARCADIS)

Started the work in field with cleaning and videoing. Work started Monday looking to start lining in a couple weeks.

b. CY23-CCTV

85% complete. Looks like wrapping up in a week or two. Doing mostly easements right now. Have added Mechanic street videoing.

c. STONY BROOK P.S. FLOOD HARDENING

Staff got a great price and will start work now.

d. ARPA FUNDING APPROVED \$580,000.00

Arpa funding approved to supplement our bonding to complete phase 2 construction.

e. SEWER LATERAL REPAIR 15 & 16 STONEWALL LA, VICINITY OF 51 BUTTWOOD LANE

Received check from contractor that installed water and caused damage on Nov 6th for the damage of the lateral. Staff asked the owner of 16 Stonewall Lane if they would attend meeting or when we could expect their money and have not heard back.

f. CURTIS BRINKERHOFF & BARRETT

\$1,800.00 dollars for legal services for fee review and policy review.

g. PEER REVIEW COST

October meeting reported to commission town council leaning towards having a code of ordinance that refers to policy to avoid the need for going through a public hearing every time commission wants to make an adjustment to the policy. Town council responded in writing that they concur with the commission.

h. 246 NOROTON AVE

We found that there is a defect and that in order to correct a flat portion of the line, the front porch would have to be removed. Mr. Taccone had them install a clean out to allow for access to clean the pipe. The owner does not want a letter in the lateral file and is exploring other ways to correct the sewer lateral such as

going around the house and eliminating the portion under the front porch. The owner has not made a final determination as to proposed action.

i. 54 BOSTON POST ROAD

In Code Of Ordinance there is a discount for carwashes and laundromats because they recycle water. Commission is asking staff to go back and verify that billing of all carwash and laundromat are processed correctly.

j. NEW SEWER BONDING (added to agenda)

Reported that \$2.357 MM in new sewer bonding was approved the Board of Selectman meeting of October 2, 2023. Next, Board of Finance and RTM approval will be sought.

General discussions included: Have not videoed Sedgwick yet, 4 inches of rain in short period of time blame on rainfall but will make sure on video. We will have a company come out. In wet weather event, we might not have capacity.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was requested.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Penny Apazidis, Post Meeting Remote Recording Secretary