



State of New Hampshire
WATER WELL BOARD



Bart Cushing, *Technical Driller, Chair*
Peter W. Caswell, C.W.D. - P.I., *Water Well Contractor*
Scott Costa, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*
NHDES Staff

Norman Harris, III, W.W.C., *Pump Installer*
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*
Steve Lamb, P.G., *Public Member*

NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

June 10, 2021

The New Hampshire Water Well Board held a meeting on June 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in Room 208C in NHDES office at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. Members of the public, if necessary, could participate in this meeting in person or through a remote meeting software available through a NHDES-provided web service.

Present were: Bart Cushing, Chair
Board Members: Scott Costa, Norman Harris, Steve Lamb, and Peter Caswell
Rene Pelletier was absent
DES Staff: Andrew Koff, Stephen Roy

Mr. Cushing brought the Board meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

The board approved Stephen Roy of NHDES Water Division to sit in as proxy for Mr. Rene Pelletier.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the Minutes for the February 2021 Board meeting. Mr. Harris motioned to approve the February 2021 Water Well Board Minutes as written. Mr. Caswell seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to accept the February 2021 Board meeting minutes as written.

Complaints

Item #1.

Mr. Roy describes a series of complaints from residents in No. Conway pertaining to a subdivision along Pemigewasset Drive, in addition a staff field visit to the area is discussed and pictures from the visit are reviewed. The summary includes a review of the previous meeting's report of installation of numerous overburden wells installed by a non-licensed party in the area associated with the Nelson group construction firm.

John Nelson of the Nelson group is on the internet service and is asked a series of questions by the board. J. Nelson described the following:

- The company knew of two wells that have gone dry and were replaced by homeowner; Nelson stated it was because the well was on the hill, and other well was dry due to garden watering.
- John Nelson does not have a license from the board, nor does any entity in Nelson group.

- The company (John Nelson) knew of the license requirement for about 1.5 years.
- The well excavations were dug as deep as possible, and completed with around 14.5 feet of 12" ID PVC pipe with 1" holes at the bottom, installed in 1.5 inch stone covered with filter fabric and backfilled to grade with native fill sloping away from upright PVC.
- Wells were chlorinated and sampled.

The board reviewed pictures taken by staff and stated that the pipe used in the well was not NSF-certified for use with potable water, and the well cap was not a compliant cap.

The licensed pump installer, Brian Streeter of Streeter and Co., was also on the web streaming service and was asked to describe the pump installation and construction details by the board, Mr. Streeter responses are as follows:

- The well diameters range between 12 and 14 inches
- No torque arrestors were used on the pump pipe and no sleeves were installed on the pumps, and the pumps generally sit on the bottom of the well.
- The slip caps have gaskets and are vented through the electrical line (conduit), in the house.
- He was told by a product supplier that the pitless adaptors he used are rated for 12 inch pipe.
- His crew installed the pumps, he did not visit the sites, his crew receives annual training.

The board described various pump installation deficiencies related to electrical conduit, electrical grounding, pump pipe, pump sizing, well cap, sanitary seals. (see enforcement section for follow up).

DES Enforcement Report

Ms. Emily Jones of NHDES presented a brief summary for the Board on the enforcement actions initiated by DES for violations of RSA 482-B and the rules of the Board, We 100 – 1000. The report included an overview of the violations, DES actions and the status of correspondence in currently active cases.

Ms. Jones reviewed the Nelson/Streeter case and provided a list of properties that have had wells installed by Nelson with pumps installed by Streeter and Sons. Ms. Jones research of property records and site visits indicate that up to 14 homes in the Pemigewasset Drive area have wells/pumps installed by Nelson and Streeter.

The board discussed the following:

In accordance with We 203.01, the board would direct staff to seek an informal resolution to the pump installation deficiencies by issuing a letter to Streeter and Sons, listing the deficiencies, affected properties and requiring Streeter to offer to inspect the homes/pump completion and fix any deficiencies at no cost to the homeowners. Streeter and Sons would be given 14-days to respond to the letter to either concur with the request or not. If Streeter and Sons would not concur to send the notification/offer letters, the board would schedule and convene a hearing on a possible license action for Brian Streeter's pump installer license.

Mr. Harris motioned to have staff complete and send the above-referenced letter, Mr. Costa seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to send the letter to Mr. Streeter.

New License Applications

Three license applications were presented to the board.

Jon Fait is seeking a domestic and industrial pump installers license. He works for Heritage Home Service in Auburn, New Hampshire. Following review of the application, Mr. Cushing motioned to allow the applicant to sit for the exam. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the applicant to sit for the exam(s).

Jennifer Gould is seeking a domestic and industrial pump installers license. She works for Gould Well Drilling in Lyndonville, Vermont. Following review of the application, Mr. Costa motioned to allow the applicant to sit for the exam. Mr. Caswell seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the applicant to sit for the exam(s).

John Nelson is seeking a dug well contractor license. He works for the Nelson Group in Conway, New Hampshire. Following review of the application, Mr. Cushing noted that the application is not complete because Mr. Nelson does not have a second licensed person as a reference. Mr. Harris motioned to deny the applicant to sit for the exam. Mr. Caswell seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to deny the applicant to sit for the exam(s).

Board member Steve Lamb departs from the meeting at 12:26 PM.

2020-2021 License Renewal Update

Mr. Koff presented a summary of the license renewal process and notes for the board some continuing confusion by license holders on the deferral of continuing education credits needed for last year's and this year's renewal. Mr. Koff noted that there may be a subset of license holders that may not have adequate continuing education for the current licensing year. The board briefly discusses the licensing requirement and request staff to provide an update at the next meeting.

Update on Drought Assistance Program Initiative

Mr. Roy provides an update of the state's Emergency Drought Assistance Program. The board briefly discusses the program and members generally note that they think it's a valuable program and is for contractors to work with.

New Business

Mr. Koff presents a five-year summary of the well construction counts by driller ID number for the board's review. A few board members question the counts in the report and generally state that they believe that various contractors (including their own firms) may have installed more wells than shown in the count. Mr. Roy states that making an absolute accounting of all well records by driller is difficult due to lack of dedicated staff to enter well construction records in the well construction record database.

Mr. Costa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Caswell seconded the motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:57 P.M.



Rene Pelletier, Water Well Board Secretary

S:\WD-DrinkingWaterGroundwater\WaterWellProgram\WaterWellBoard\WWB Meetings\Minutes\2021\June 10, 2021\20210610-minutes_DRAFT.doc