

BLRWPCA MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025 – 7 PM

The BLRWPCA Board held its meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., with Robert Morra presiding, and in attendance were Jessica Webb, Richard Hayes, and Jim Rupert, while Cheryl Udin, Dan Champagne, and John Kleinhans were present via Zoom.

Others in person were Carl Castanho and other representatives for 366 Boston Turnpike.

1. Call to Order.

R. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: The board approved the April 30- Regular meeting minutes.

1st Richard Hayes | 2nd Dan Champagne - Vote: 6 yes

Robert Morra appointed Jim Rupert to fill the vacancy at the meeting, so he could become a voting member

4. Pending Business:

a. Discussion on the refund process when needed.

The board discussed the refund process policy, deciding to postpone further discussion until their next meeting and to consult with Vernon's collector about existing policies.

b. Discussion on alternative billing methods for EDUs.

The board discussed alternative billing methods for EDUs, with a focus on metering sites and charging based on quarterly usage plus a percentage rather than the current upfront \$10,000 per EDU cost. Town proposed this new approach to make projects more palatable for property owners, but Cheryl raised concerns about fairness and potential legal challenges if smaller properties were treated differently. The board agreed to develop a policy that would set a high enough threshold to ensure consistency for all property owners.

The board is also focused on fairness for existing property owners who paid upfront fees. Also, concerns were raised about fairness in the assessment process, comparing it to sewer line installations, where both connection fees and assessments were used. The board agreed to continue discussions on how to implement a fair policy that would allow

for Edu payments to be spread over time, similar to the original 20-year payment option offered to early adopters.

5. New Business:

a. 366 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, CT (Carl Castanho).

The Board engaged in a wide-ranging discussion covering property sewer line installations, subdivision bond considerations, sewer capacity planning, septic alternatives, and future housing development in Connecticut. Members emphasized the importance of balancing individual property needs with long-term system sustainability. Key points included the challenges of unique sewer connections, fairness in bond release for developer-installed infrastructure, and the need to maintain system capacity while supporting responsible growth. The Board acknowledged state requirements and funding constraints, noting that septic alternatives are limited in sewer service areas. Broader discussion also addressed the statewide housing shortage, with members recognizing the urgency of multifamily development and the importance of being prepared with policies and planning when funding becomes available. Overall, the Board agreed to continue monitoring these issues to ensure equitable treatment of property owners, compliance with state mandates, and proactive support for community development.

6. Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with Coventry regarding a sewer extension into Coventry.

Coventry Town Council had not responded to Rich's outreach regarding an unspecified matter.

Actions: Board to follow up with Coventry regarding their response to the presented proposal.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suellen Kamara

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these Minutes and any corrections hereto.