

Housing Smart Committee Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025 @ 6pm

Call to Order - 6:05

Roll Call - Names of members (Write Absent or Present)

- Sara Bayer - present
- Philip Mones - present
- Sophie Grant - present
- Vickie Starr - present
- Deb Dolan - present

Also present were Beth Waterman, Catherine Del Tufo and Karen Lee from the Conservation Advisory Council.

Our special guest for the evening was Mitch Hall from the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

Mitch began by giving a basic overview of how septic systems work, and the Septic System Program they run. He also clarified how people can qualify for the Septic Program. The committee specifically noted the following:

- Anyone whose system is older than 3 years old qualifies, provided the house is at least 20 years old. CWC does not provide free septic for new construction.
- There is no funding shortage for the program, so our committee can help spread the word.

It was noted by the committee that we should plan an informational event for the local community to come learn more about CWC program, possibly in the fall.

Mitch also reviewed newer types of onsite wastewater treatment, such as aerobic treatment units, media filters and modified sand filters, along with "Inflow & Infiltration" issues that can cause septic systems to fail, and how to prevent it.

The last item of discussion was pros and cons of composting toilets, which are cheaper to install than septic systems, but which require a lot of homeowner maintenance, sometimes with added costs. The info in the presentation was provided by DEP, and a

few in the audience noted that it may not be up to date since it lacked info about newer compositing toilet systems being used in Europe.

On a motion from Sophie Grant, the board closed the meeting at 7:30. All in favor - motion carried.

Minutes taken by Vickie Starr

The next Housing Smart Committee meeting will take place on Monday, June 23rd @ 6pm @ Shandaken Town Hall.