

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of February 22, 2024
Report covers from 01/09 – 02/16/2024
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 86 Belcher Street, Plosker, Map 118, Lot 5

This septic system was determined to be conditionally passing after an official inspection was conducted on October 19, 2023; the repairs required for the system to pass included repairing the power supply to the pump chamber and replacing the pump itself. However, during the course of this repair, it was determined that a possible groundwater issue existed. I conducted several site visits with the contractor and confirmed that this is the case – that the leaching area is interfacing with the estimated seasonal high water table and the system is in failure.

Recommendation: None at this time. The property owner was notified that the system does not pass the official Title 5 inspection, and therefore the system shall be upgraded/repaired within 2 years of the date of the inspection as outlined in 310 CMR 15.000.

(2) 144 Conomo Point Road, Lane, Map 108, Lot 59

I have reviewed the report for the tight tank inspection conducted at this property on January 22, 2024 by Jon Granz. The inspector noted the tight tank was last pumped in October, and the tank has had no flow since this date. The tight tank does not appear to be leaking, and meets all other state and local requirements. The next routine inspection shall be done within 5 years, or not later than January 22, 2029. A reinspection may be required sooner if conditions indicate a public health or environmental concern, or if necessary for a property/lease transfer.

(3) 179 Conomo Point Road, Lane, Map 108, Lot 29

I have reviewed the report for the tight tank inspection conducted at this property on January 2, 2024 by Jon Granz. The inspector noted the tight tank was last pumped in October, and the tank has had no flow since this date. The tight tank does not appear to be leaking, and meets all other state and local requirements. The next routine inspection shall be done within 5 years, or not later than January 2, 2029. A reinspection may be required sooner if conditions indicate a public health or environmental concern, or if necessary for a property/lease transfer.

(4) 64 Choate Street, Foss, Map 115, Lot 23

I have reviewed the report for the inspection conducted on this septic system by Daniel Ottenheimer on February 1, 2024. The distribution box was replaced during the course of the inspection and I inspected this work. The inspector noted the dwelling has a garbage grinder and the system was not designed to accommodate this flow; however, the system does not meet the failure criteria and passes the official Title 5 inspection.

B. Septic Plans

None

C. Septic Inspections and Other Field Work

(1) 64 Choate Street, Foss, Map 115, Lot 23

I inspected the distribution box replacement for the septic system serving this property.

D. Complaints and Other Updates

(1) 18 John Wise Avenue, Mulvey, Map 120, Lot 2

The property owners have not yet submitted documentation showing their septic tank and associated components have been pumped as required; however, on February 8, 2024, the owner stated the “septic will be done within 3 weeks.” I have requested documentation, such as a contract, showing this sewer connection is scheduled, but have not yet received it. In addition, a representative from MA DEP’s Clean Water Trust has confirmed that our septic loan program, as approved at Town Meeting, may be used for sewer connections when the septic system serving a particular dwelling has been designated as failed. No additional Town Meeting approvals are necessary for this type of use.

(2) 17 King’s Court, Butman, Map 151, Lot 16

I spoke with the contractor who holds the building permit for the work done at this property, and was informed he was waiting for final payment prior to requesting an inspection for the Certificate of Occupancy. I visited the property and informed the occupant that the dwelling was condemned by the Board of Health in 2020 and may not be occupied until the dwelling is reinspected and the condemnation order is vacated. I asked the occupant to reach out to the contractor to initiate a closeout of his work and to contact the Building Inspector and our office to schedule an inspection. I have also been in contact with the owner’s caseworker at the VA Bedford Healthcare (where he resides) to determine how best to proceed with these issues.

(3) 21 Main Street Apt 2, Savory, Map 128, Lot 65

The owner and occupant continue to work together to address issues with rodents in the unit. No further inspections are scheduled at this time.

(4) 92 Southern Avenue, Deus, Map 140, Lot 54-1-2

Housing Court was held on Friday, 1/19 (not 1/16 as previously reported), and the owner was issued an order to correct the violations outlined in the 1/18/24 inspection report. In addition, the owner was ordered to contract with a trash hauler for weekly pick-up, for a contract term of one year. A reinspection is scheduled for 2/27, and this will be heard again in Housing Court on 3/1.

(5) Public Health Graduate Student Intern

We were approved to host a public health graduate student intern to help us develop a program for seniors and other individuals identified as needing assistance, which will be linked to our regional dispatch center. The student intern will be working with our community partners to identify those most at risk and ensure everyone interested is able to ‘opt in’ to the program once it’s complete.

(6) Eastern Essex Regional Public Health Coalition updates

Our coalition interviewed one candidate for the Shared Services Coordinator position that was posted in November, and I believe Hamilton has decided to offer the job to this candidate. Once this position is filled, the Public Health Nurse position will be reposted.

Opioid Response Training is scheduled for April 26th at the Senior Center. ONESTOP Harm Reduction will be providing education on how to recognize an overdose and how nasal naloxone can help.

(7) 234 John Wise Avenue, Boat House Grill, Map 105, Lot 19

We received a complaint that the restrooms at this establishment didn't have any hot water. I visited the property and verified there was hot water available in all faucets, including the restrooms and the prep/handwashing sinks in the kitchen. FDA Food Code only requires hot water in the handwashing sink; restrooms are required to provide running water and soap.

(8) Covid Wastewater Data

Essex County data is below, with the solid line showing the concentration (copies/mL) for Essex County and the dotted line showing the national concentration (copies/mL). This data was published on February 17, 2024.

