

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of April 13, 2023
Report covers from 03/21 – 04/10/2023
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

None.

B. Septic Plan Reviews

None.

C. Private Wells

- (1) 35 Conomo Point Road, Fowler, Map 123, Lot 5

I signed the well drilling permit application for a new well at this location.

D. Other Permit Applications and Requests

E. Septic Inspections and Other Field Work

- (1) 42 Wood Drive, Carpenter, Map 154, Lot 12

I inspected the bottom of the leaching area for the replacement septic system being installed at this location.

F. Complaints and Other Updates

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

In response to a report from Essex Police Department and a subsequent complaint from an occupant at this location, a comprehensive housing inspection was conducted on April 4 and April 5, 2023. The Essex Fire Chief and Building Inspector completed their own inspection as well, and we were accompanied by EPD. Deplorable conditions were found throughout, including large piles of both loose and bagged trash/garbage, toilets that were not functioning properly, plastic jugs of (what appeared to be) urine being stored in the attic used as a sleeping area. All violations were outlined in the inspection form dated April 6, 2023.

As a result of this inspection, as well as violations found by the Building Inspector and Fire Chief, an emergency condemnation order and notice to vacate was served to the owner/occupant. This matter was also referred to the Board of Selectmen, as it appears this dwelling is being operated as a rooming house, without a license from the BoS to do so.

Recommendation: Discussion, and possible vote to uphold the emergency condemnation order and notice to vacate issued by BoH Administrator Kirchner on April 6, 2023.

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(2) Essex Pizza

We had a complaint that someone consumed a salad from Essex Pizza that resulted in a possible chemical burn on the back of his throat. The complaint was reported on April 10, 2023, and the incident occurred on March 20, 2023. The complainant reported that he waited 3 weeks to report the incident because the owner of the establishment threatened him. I conducted a brief inspection and spoke with the owner, but it is difficult to determine where the cross contamination occurred due to the amount of time that had passed; the matter was referred to EPD due to the possible threat he described.

(3) Remote Work Policy*

On April 10, 2023, after a public hearing, the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the personnel regulations to include a remote work policy. This affects the hours worked by the Public Health Nurse, since she has not been required to keep office hours. The policy specifically allows for designed “subject matter experts” to be permitted to work remotely if recommended by the Appointing Authority (BoH) and approved by the Personnel Board (BoS).

Recommendation: Discussion and possible vote on a recommendation to allow the PHN to continue working remotely as described in section 2.4(b)(v) of the Policy.