

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of August 11, 2022
Report covers from 07/28 – 08/8/2022
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 48 Story Street, Andrews, Map 134, Lot 47*

I reviewed the report for the official Title 5 inspection conducted at this property by Ron Jenkins on July 15, 2022. The inspector has noted that the soil absorption system is sited below the estimated seasonal high water table and does not pass the Title 5 inspection. The inspector also noted that the washing machine discharges to a separate dry well, and this leaching area is full of "stone and dirt".

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating we are in agreement with the determination of the inspector, Ron Jenkins, and that the system fails the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 15, 2022. The property owner is required to connect all plumbing serving this 3-bedroom dwelling, including the washing machine discharge pipe, to municipal sewer no later than July 15, 2024. The property owner may also be required under the State Environmental Code, Title 5 (310 CMR 15.000) "to perform interim measures (for example, regular pumping)" in order to prevent an imminent health hazard.

B. Septic Plan Reviews

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

I reviewed the design for the replacement septic system at this property, designed by John Judd and dated July 19, 2022. The plan is proposed to serve the two existing dwellings on the property, for a total of 4 bedrooms or 440 gallons per day. The plan for the proposed system includes a variance request for a reduction in pervious material from the required 4' to 2'. This reduction is allowed with the use of the proposed Presby Advanced Enviroseptic pipe in a field configuration. The plan appears to meet state and local requirements for on-site wastewater, although I have reached out to the engineer with a few technical questions pertaining to the location and size of the septic tank(s) as well as any necessary buoyancy calculations if new tanks are proposed.

Recommendation: If the engineer satisfactorily answers our questions about this design, I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the plan for the proposed septic system at this property, designed by John Judd and dated July 19, 2022 is approved. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance for this system, the property owner shall provide to the Board of Health a contract identifying the requirement for an annual inspection with a trained Presby operator, as well as documentation showing this system type and inspectional requirements have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

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(2) 31 Apple Street, Estate of Elisabeth Frye, Map 142, Lot 14*

I reviewed the design for the replacement septic system at this property, designed Dan Johnson and dated June 6, 2022. The plan is designed to serve the existing 4-bedrooms dwelling, and the designer is requesting a variance to reduce the distance between the ESHWT and the bottom of the leaching area from the required 4' to the allowed 2' in accordance with the Presby Enviro-septic System Special Conditions. I have reached out to the designer requesting 2 items be corrected, specifically the slope on the profile view from the house to the septic tank/pump chamber combo is incorrect; and the Owner's Acknowledgement of the Presby system requirements has been signed by the previous owner.

Recommendation: If the designer corrects the two errors outlined above, I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the plan for the proposed septic system at this property, designed by Dan Johnson and dated June 6, 2022 is approved. The system is designed for a maximum of 4 bedrooms, or 440 gallons per day.

C. Other Permit Applications and Requests

(1) 15 Tree Hill, Pratt, Map 119, Lot 7

I signed the building permit application for the renovation/repairs of the cell phone tower at this location.

(2) 2 Lowland Farm Road, Mscisz, Map 141, Lot 2

I signed the building permit application for the construction of a new 4-bedroom home at this location.

D. Septic Inspections and Other Field Work

(1) 42 Apple Street, Browning, Map 141, Lot 10

I witnessed the vacuum test for the new septic tank and completed the final inspection of the new septic system at this property

(2) 210 Southern Avenue, Nally, Map 209, Lot 13.1

I inspected the bottom of the holes for the proposed septic tank and pump chamber at this property.

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E. Complaints and Other Updates

(1) 5 Cogswell Road, Appeltofft, Map 110, Lot 28*

This property has a deadline of November 18, 2022 to install the approved tight tank at this location. The property recently transferred, and although all relevant documents pertaining to the failed septic system were shared with counsel and all interested parties, we should ensure the buyer is aware of the requirements and the installation deadline.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner with the details of the failed septic system at this location, as well as the reminder of the November 18, 2022 deadline to install the approved tight tank.

(2) 234 John Wise Avenue, Boat House Grille*

The last 6 pumping reports we have received for the septic system serving this property have indicated heavy grease in both the septic tanks and grease trap. Although the property owner is continuing the monthly schedule for pumping the grease trap, it seems reasonable to send a reminder reiterating the need for proper maintenance.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner reminding him of the importance of proper maintenance of the grease trap and septic tank. This includes regular pumping as well as limiting the amount of fats, oils, and grease that are washed down the drain. The Board of Health also requests that the grease trap continue to be pumped monthly until further notice.

(3) Public Health Excellence Grant/Eastern Essex Regional Public Health Coalition

This shared services grant funds our regional public health nurse and soon-to-be-hired social worker to serve the 4 communities in our coalition – Essex, Hamilton, Rockport, and Wenham. The funding agency, the MA Office of Local and Regional Health, has also outlined training recommendations and requirements to help public health staff and volunteers who work in the 4 communities achieve “excellence in public health”. Boards of Health members should complete the free “Orientation to Public Health” within 3 months and the free “Foundations for Local Public Health Practice” within 1 year. These training sessions are offered at no cost online through Boston University, and additional credentialing information and requirements are available at <https://www.hamiltonma.gov/phtraining/education-training-and-credentialing-information/>

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(4) Googan's Galley, 1 Martin Street

We received notification from a neighboring health department that an individual who had tested positive for a foodborne illness identified this establishment as one of the locations visited during the 72 hours prior to symptom onset. An individual in this household also experienced the same symptoms during the same time period, but did not obtain a confirmatory lab test. Bobbie conducted a HACCP Risk Assessment for all products consumed by both individuals; this information, as well as the most recent inspection report have been linked to the MAVEN case and submitted to the MA Food Protection Program as required. Bobbie conducted a follow-up food inspection and that report will be submitted to us when it is completed.

(5) 85 Conomo Point Road, Bediz, Map 110, Lot 59

We received word of possible housing code violations at this location from the Town Administrator, who states an individual had a series of complaints that were left in a message on his voicemail. I reached out to the complainant twice via telephone to no avail. No further follow-up at this time, as we don't know the nature of the complaints or if they are something for which the BoH is responsible.

(6) Vaccine updates

We are continuing vaccine clinics for individuals age 6 months and older. Clinics are currently running 2 weeks on/2 weeks off, on Friday afternoons. Our next clinic is scheduled for August 19th, and the regional public health nurse has requested a police detail after being notified there is an individual repeatedly bothering caregivers in the parking lot.

Vaccine clinics will transition to primary and booster doses for all age groups within the next month or so. We are also planning for flu season and will schedule clinics for late September at the Senior Center, and at Town Hall during Clam Fest in October, as we have done in the past.

(7) Rapid Antigen Testing

We still have a supply of iHealth rapid antigen test kits available to Essex residents, upon request.

Essex Confirmed Case Counts

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October 2021:	10	April 2022:	23
November 2021:	55	May 2022:	39
December 2021:	116	June 2022:	16
January 2022:	87	July 2022:	21
February 2022:	16	August 2022:	4
March 2022:	13	(to date)	