

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of April 11, 2013
Report covers from March 14 to April 10, 2013
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 7 Maple St., Kenney, Map 36, Lot 35*

I reviewed the Title 5 inspection report for this system, and am in agreement with the determination of the inspector that the system passed the 3-14-13 inspection by Daniel Johnson. The report does note the existence of a garbage disposal in the house; for which the septic system is not designed.

Recommendation: I recommend that a letter be sent to the property owner stating that the Board is in agreement with the determination of the property owner that the septic system passed the title 5 inspection performed 3-14-13 by Daniel Johnson; however the report noted the existence of a garbage grinder in the house. The septic system was not designed for the use of a garbage grinder. It must therefore be removed.

(2) 3 Evans Way, Migliaccio, Map 36, Lot 7B*

This Title 5 report was reviewed at the 12-13 12 meeting –

“I reviewed the Title 5 inspection report for the inspection performed 10-19-12 on this property. The inspector classified this system as having a “passed” inspection with the notation of solids carry over in the d-box and the d-box being in fair to poor condition. The attached photo shows what looks like solids in the d box with staining over the inlet tee. I spoke to the inspector. He stated that what looks like solids on the interior of the d box is scale from the water mineralization and slough off from the box corrosion. What looks like the ring from the solids near the top is the accumulation of minerals at the cover line. He stated he will send revisions to the inspection report clarifying this and also changing the inspection from “passed” to “conditional pass” with the requirement that the d box be replaced.” At the time “*I recommend that the current report not be accepted as a “pass” due to the poor condition of the d box, but changed to “needs further evaluation” and a revised report be submitted clarifying the d box interior condition.*”

Since that time a question came up asking if component replacement (d-box, tank) is allowed for a “conditional pass” inspection if the property has the option to connect to public sewer. I checked with DEP for their opinion. They informed me that the only work allowed on a septic system if the property has the option to connect to public sewer, is the leveling of a distribution box. If a component needs replacement, the property must connect to the public sewer. Approx. 2 weeks ago, an installer came into pull a permit for replacement of the distribution box. I informed him of DEP’s opinion on this matter and that this was not allowed.

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Recommendation: Discussion

B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations

(1) 65 Pond St., Tyack, Map 5, Lot 20

I witnessed soil testing for new construction on this property.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

(1) Dwelling 3, Builder Lot 2, Lowland Farm Rd., Briggs, Map 9, Lot 12D *

I reviewed this revised septic component plan for the relocation of the sewer line, manhole, and septic tank. The components have been raised up to be within the Title 5 soil cover range, the reserve s.a.s. is now located. We do need additional copies of the plan with the original PE stamp and signature, manhole covers must be above final grade, and the water line to the house must be shown.

Recommendation: I recommend disapproval of this plan, dated 3-13 and received 3-7-13, for the above reasons.

D. Septic System Installations

(1) 6 Shea's Ct., Etna, Map 8, Lot 10F

I inspected the bed bottom, sand fill, and tank bottom at this property.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

E. Building Permit Applications & Occupancy Permits

(1) Dwelling 3, Builder Lot 2, Lowland Farm Rd., Briggs, Map 9, Lot 12D *

This permit was reviewed 12-13-12. The Board voted to allow me to approve it upon satisfactory changes to the septic system plan. The plan has been revised and the major issues corrected. There are a couple of minor needed additions to the plan. This house is a condo that shares a 15 bedroom septic system with 3 other houses. The submitted plan is for a 10 room, 5 bedroom house, which is allowed by the sewer flow. I approved the BP application, with the agreement that a revised septic component relocation plan be submitted with the required changes.

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Recommendation: None. Informational only.

(2) 60 Choate St., O'Flynn, Map 16, Lot 12D *

Mr. O'Flynn has submitted a copy of the recorded 3 bedroom deed restriction for this property and the building permit application for "addition & deck to rear of house. Raise roof in second floor rear".

Recommendation: Endorsement of the building permit application dated 4-4-13.

(3) 60 Choate St., O'Flynn, Map 16, Lot 12D *

We received a second building permit application for this property to "build barn in side yard. No plumbing or living area". The proposed location will not interfere with the existing septic system. The barn includes a workshop area and a loft. This property has a 3 bedroom deed restriction.

Recommendation: Endorsement of the building permit application, dated 4-4-13.

F. Well Water Supply Certificates

None

G. Meetings Attended (for information only)

H. Complaints

(1) 75R Wood Dr., Map 4, Lot 118

We received a follow up anonymous complaint on this property stating that there is greywater flowing directly into Chebacco Lake. The Plumbing Inspector & I both inspected the property after the first complaint and verified that this isn't happening.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

(2) 6 Main St, Friend Estate, Map 40, Lot 25

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I received a complaint on this garage/barn pertaining to its accessibility to animals and location next to Ernie's Garage. The property is owned by an estate. I informed both the Building Inspector and Fire Chief of the complaint.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

(3) 34 Pickering St., *

We received a call on this property. They did not want to make a complaint, but asked that we contact the owner to clean it up.

Recommendation: Discussion

(4) Sr. Center Podiatrist *

We received a complaint from someone concerned about the practices of the podiatrist who does clinics at the Senior Center. During 2 of his clinics, she did not once see him wash his hands between clients and he did not wear gloves. She is also concerned as to the sanitation of his instruments. I thought the Board may want to send a letter to the Podiatrist and COA stating that we were contacted by someone with these concerns and reiterating the basic recommended practices. I spoke to the Division of Professional Licensure to discuss these concerns, confirm their required practices, and get their suggestion as to how to proceed. I spoke to Ann Driscoll, an investigator for the Board of Podiatrists. She discussed the "basic standards of practice" with me.

Recommendation: Discussion

(5) 27 Forest Ave., Hunt, Map 34, Lot 83

We received a complaint pertaining to dogs running loose and grading work being done, creating runoff onto a neighboring property and causing damage to that property. The dog complaint was referred to the animal control officer and I explained that I was unaware of any public health regulations pertaining runoff caused by grading. The property is not within wetland areas, so there is no Conservation Commission jurisdiction. I explained that it may be a civil matter, but I would check with the DPH to confirm that no regulations were being violated. I did speak to Paul Halfmann, who confirmed that it is not a public health issue and also stated it may be a civil matter.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

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(6) 153 Conomo Point Rd., Foley, Map 24, Lot 17*

I received a call from the DPW stating that when they were working on the summer water line on Conomo Point Rd, they discovered what looked like a cesspool with a missing cover and only a piece of wood covering it. This is a property for which the town is trying to regain control. I have spoken to Brendhan and sent an email. He is working with the DPW to replace the missing cover. In the interim, the opening has been covered with wood and weighed down to prevent access.

Recommendation: I recommend a letter be sent to the BOS noting the violation and requiring corrective steps be taken.

I. Hazards Abated Via Enforcement Orders

None.

J. Other Issues

(1) PH Nurse Resignation *

As you have been informed, Kim Paskalis, RN, our PH nurse has given her resignation notice. Her last day will be April 12. She has been a fantastic, dedicated, and enthusiastic part of this Department, who will be hard to replace. Fortunately, she has promised to continue to help us in the Essex Youth Triathlon planning and implementation this year. The job has been publically posted, as required.

Recommendation: Acceptance of Kim's resignation and discussion of replacement.

(2) Grove St. Air Quality

I received a phone call from a resident in the area looking for information on air quality requirements. She was concerned about periodic strong smells coming from the auto painting process at a local garage/repair shop. A stack on the roof had come down during the winter and not been repaired. She will take the information into consideration and likely phone me to confirm the odor when it reoccurs.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

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(3) Rabies Testing

We received a report of an animal bite from a dog. The dog was euthanized and tested negative for rabies.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

(4) Leave Use Notification *

I used vacation time this past week. Please see submitted Leave Use Notification for specifics.

Recommendation: Approval of time used.

(5) FY '14 Budget

We were notified by the town Accountant of the Fin Com recommendations for our upcoming budget. They are recommending our budget as submitted, with COL & union raises added.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

K. Tracking of Housing, Food Service, and Other Miscellaneous Board Issues

(1) Title 5 Inspection "Conditional Pass" *

The question came up as to whether a septic system that received a "conditional pass" on an inspection is mandated to connect to the public sewer if available, rather than perform a d-box or tank component replacement to convert the inspection to a "pass". I spoke to DEP about this. Their determination is that if sewer is available, the only work to be allowed on the existing septic system is the leveling of the d-box. Any work requiring a permit (i.e. component replacement) requires connection to the public sewer, if available.

Recommendation: Discussion