

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of March 12, 2020**  
*Report covers from 03/12 – 05/13/2020*  
*Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk (\*)*

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

None.

**B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations**

(1) 94 John Wise Avenue, Kellerman, Map 113, Lot 4

This property owner was enquiring about the process to renovate an existing building to transition from a barn to a residential dwelling. We discussed the requirements for “new construction”, and why this change would be considered new construction even though it is an existing building. The first step in this process would be a soil evaluation/percolation test, to determine if the soil on this lot is suitable for an additional, new dwelling unit.

**C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews**

(1) 3 Shea Court, Isaac, Map 145, Lot 32\*

This design plan for this proposed septic system, designed by George Zambouras and dated April 2, 2016 with a revision date of March 23, 2020, includes the use of a Presby system to reduce the minimum size of the leaching area. However, the Presby calculations the designer used were based on old requirements of 50 linear feet (l.f.) per bedroom. As of September 2019, Massachusetts requires a minimum of 70 l.f. per bedroom.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the proposed septic system plan designed by George Zambouras with a design date of March 23, 2020 is disapproved. The designer needs to revise the plan using current design calculations for the Presby system.*

(2) 4 Belcher Street, Adams, Map 129, Lot 18\*

This design plan for this proposed septic system, designed by Dan Johnson and dated January 14, 2020 with a revision date of March 10, 2020. The designer has made the necessary revisions, and the plan now meets state and local regulations, with the local upgrade approval request to reduce the separation to groundwater from the required 4' to the allowable 2' with the use of a Presby Enviro-Septic Wastewater System.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the proposed septic system plan designed by Dan Johnson with a final revision date of March 10, 2020, is approved.*

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**D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments** (informational only)

(1) 39 Story Street, Ginn, Map 129, Lot 15

I inspected the abandonment of the septic tank at this property by Chris Roberts, in anticipation of connection to municipal sewer.

(2) 27 Harry Homans Drive, Reilly, Map 143, Lot 14

I inspected the abandonment of the septic tank at this property by Paul Wright, in anticipation of connection to municipal sewer.

(3) 154 Conomo Point Road, Wendell, Map 108, Lot 42

I witnessed the vacuum test for the installation of the tight tank at this property, conducted by Mark from Shea Concrete.

(4) 149 Western Avenue, Canilla, Map 143, Lot 80

I inspected the abandonment of the septic tank at this property by Peter Macaro, in anticipation of connection to municipal sewer.

**E. Well Water Supply**

None.

**F. Building Permit Applications**

(1) 21 Lakeview, Feathertree Real Estate Investor, Inc, Map 145, Lot 5

I signed the demolition and building permit applications for this property, after reviewing their asbestos abatement and exterminator's reports.

**G. Complaints/Other**

(1) 28 Cogswell, Herold, Map 110, Lot 20

This property transferred ownership without having the required Title 5 inspection conducted and report submitted to the Board of Health. The new owners were informed of this requirement via certified mail, and provided with a deadline to either conduct a Title 5 inspection or upgrade the system, as required.

*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

(2) 194 Southern Avenue, McPherson, Map 209, Lot 1

This property transferred ownership without having the required Title 5 inspection conducted and report submitted to the Board of Health. The new owners were informed of this requirement via certified mail, and provided with a deadline to either conduct a Title 5 inspection or upgrade the system, as required.

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*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

(3) 69 Choate Street, McLeod, Map 105, Lot 6

We received a complaint from a neighbor that the septic system installed in 2019 never had the final seed/loam over the leaching area. The neighbor's complaint was that the large area of bare ground created a dust nuisance. I conducted a site visit at this property and walked around the leaching area with the owner; it is my opinion that there is sufficient grass cover of the leachfield to prevent a dust situation; although the owner did plant additional grass seed as a proactive measure, the new system is in compliance with the requirements of the code and in the approved plan.

*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

(4) Mosquito Control District\*

There is an annual town meeting warrant article asking residents to vote on joining the Northeast Mosquito Control District. The District has provided us with information on the services they provide (from surveillance, larviciding, and/or aerial spraying, among other things), as well as the cost to join and how this expense is paid.

*Recommendation: Discussion*

**G. COVID-19 Updates**

(1) Amendment of Face Covering Order\*

On May 1, 2020, Gov. Baker announced new requirements for face coverings in public spaces (in all businesses providing essential services, as well as outside when maintaining a 6' physical separation is impossible), to begin on May 6, 2020. This mandate superseded all local regulations pertaining to face coverings, including the Essex regulation adopted on April 23, 2020.

In response to this new state mandate, I signed an emergency order on behalf of the BoH allowing the Essex Police Department to assist the Essex BoH and Administrator in enforcing state orders relative to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This emergency order does not involve any new or more stringent orders than are already in place at the State level; rather, it allows the EPD to act as Agents of the Board of Health for purposes of education and enforcement (if necessary) of existing and future State orders directly related to those mandated by Gov. Baker's Administration.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health vote to ratify the Emergency Order dated May 9, 2020 titled "Regulation and Order: COVID-19 State of Emergency." This order will take the place of the previous order dated April 23, 2020 titled "Use of Masks and Other Protective Measures."*

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(2) Case Count

As of 5/13/2020, Essex has had 17 confirmed positive cases and 2 “probable” cases. Probable cases are those that have had a positive IgG serum test, but have do not have a corresponding (previous or current) positive PCR test. Probable cases are required to isolate for 10 days from test date, even if they are no longer symptomatic; close contacts of probable cases are required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of contact. Quarantine/isolation requirements for probable cases are able to have this lifted with documentation showing a negative PCR result. Current guidance has been changed recently to allow for close contacts of confirmed cases to be tested immediately, even if asymptomatic.

(3) Reopening of businesses

Currently all businesses providing essential services are still permitted to remain open; social distancing and face covering requirements are still in effect. In addition, businesses providing non-essential services (as outlined by Gov. Baker's Administration) are now permitted to operate under certain conditions; specifically they may conduct remote sales of products (i.e. through the USPS or other shipping service) provided the number of employees is limited based on square footage of the business space. Details of this are provided at mass.gov.

Gov. Baker has announced a four-phase reopening plan which is based on case counts and sector, rather than a specific set timeline or date. Details on the four phases will be announced on Monday, May 18, 2020. Currently restaurants are available for take-out only – all on-premises consumption of food and drink is prohibited. In anticipation of future openings, I have reached out to the food service establishments and provided them with guidance from the FDA on what might be expected here in Massachusetts (i.e. face coverings, limited capacity, etc). Local Public Health has not been provided with any additional information on what sectors may be able to open within each phase.

(4) Food Establishment Complaints

Over the past several weeks, we have had many complaints about individuals failing to be socially distant, individuals not wearing face coverings, and restaurants refusing to accept cash at their establishments. In those instances that I have been able to address in a timely manner, I have found most nearly all members of the public willing to comply with a reminder and explanation of what the issues are. All establishments have been informed of the fact that cash is “legal tender” and they would be in violation of M.G..L. Ch. 255D, sec. 10a if they discriminate against cash buyers. Most of the responses I've received have been positive.

(5) Board of Health Webpage

Our webpage now has a page for information related to COVID-19, with links to official information on symptoms and testing, unemployment and financial assistance, mental health and substance use resources, and guidance on the reopening of businesses. The page is updated regularly, as we receive new information and data; it also has our current case count.

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