

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of June 11, 2020
Report covers from 05/14 – 05/27/2020
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 234 John Wise Ave, 234 John Wise LLC, Map 105, Lot 19*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by Jon Granz on February 15, 2020. The inspector has noted that the system is functioning as intended.

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, Jon Granz, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on February 15, 2020. The next routine inspection of the system serving this property shall be conducted no later than 3 months after re-opening.

(2) 8 Sumac Drive, Erhard, Map 110, Lot 5*

I reviewed the report for the official Title 5 inspection conducted at this property by Rick Clarke on May 18, 2020. The inspector has noted that the system is functioning as designed.

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 Richard Clarke and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on May 18, 2020. The letter should also state that the system is designed for a maximum of two bedrooms or 220 gallons per day, and that the inspector has recommended the septic tank be pumped within the next year.

(3) 51 Lufkin Point Road, Aley, Map 109, Lot 4*

I reviewed the report for the official Title 5 inspection conducted at this property by John Duncan on June 12, 2020. The inspector has noted that there are 2 private drinking water wells within 100' of the SAS; however, the inspector has provided well water analyses indicating there is no bacteria present in either well. Therefore, the system passes the Title 5 inspection.

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 John Duncan that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on June 12, 2020. Routine annual operations and maintenance of this system continues to be required for the life of the system.

B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations

(1) 89 John Wise Avenue, Costello, Map 113, Lot 7

I witnessed soil testing performed by John Judd as the first step in upgrading the failed system at this property.

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B. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

(1) 26 John Wise Lane, Burnham, Map 101, Lot 32*

I have reviewed the tight tank designed by John Judd and dated April 13, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020. I have noted that this plan meets all state and local requirements for holding tanks.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the plan for the tight tank designed by John Judd and dated April 13, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020 is approved. Prior to the issuance of a Disposal Works Construction Permit, the property owner shall record a notice with the deed disclosing that the property is served by a holding tank and this dwelling is limited to a maximum of 2 bedrooms.

(2) 88 Pond Street, Bruce, Map 147, Lot 27*

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system for this property, designed by Dan Johnson and dated April 22, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020. The designer has made all necessary revisions/corrections, and the plan is now in compliance with all local and state septic system requirements.

Recommendation: 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 April 22, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020 is approved. The septic system is designed to serve a maximum of 4 bedrooms.

(3) 72 Belcher Street, Schylling, Map 118, Lot 3*

I reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system at this property, designed by John Judd and dated April 16, 2020. During the review, the following technical deficiencies or errors were noted: The test pits on the site plan view were not labeled.

1. The design plan did not contain the designer's certification statement (EDS 600.3.5).
2. The design plan did not depict the design ESHGWT. It appears the design ESHGWT would be used from T-2 93.8. If so, this changes the proposed system elevations.
3. A note needs to be added to the design plan to indicate all non-leach lines shall be tested for watertightness if within 6" of ESHGWT (EDS 500.3.1).
4. To ensure the installer provides the proper cover material above the septic tank and distribution, proposed finish spot elevations should be provided on the site plan.
5. A note should be added to the design plan to indicate the septic tank and distribution box shall be watertight (310 CMR 15.221(1)).
6. A note should be added to the design plan to indicate the maintenance requirement for the proposed effluent filter (310 CMR 15.227(7)).
7. A note is required to indicate the watertightness requirements for the septic tank (EDS 500.3.2).
8. The distribution box detail dimensions do not match the SHEA specification sheet dimensions. Please revise accordingly.
9. The profile view does not depict the existing grade.

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10. The profile view depicts the slope from the septic tank to the distribution box at 0.02 but it calculates to be 0.01.
11. In the profile view, the finish grade above the proposed system does not match the site plan view.
12. In the profile view, the bottom of chamber elevation does not match the elevation in the chamber detail section.
13. The Title 5 conventional primary leach field size was not depicted on the site plan in accordance with the DEP Standard Conditions for Alternative SAS.

Recommendation: I recommend we sent a letter to the property owner stating the plan designed by John Judd and dated April 16, 2020 is disapproved for the reasons outlined above.

(4) 72 Belcher Street, Schylling, Map 118, Lot 3 *

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system for this property, designed by John Judd and dated April 16, 2020 with a revision date of June 8, 2020. The designer has made all necessary revisions/corrections, and the plan is now in compliance with all local and state septic system requirements.

Recommendation: 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 April 16, 2020 with a revision date of June 8, 2020 is approved. The septic system is designed to serve a maximum of 3 bedrooms.

(5) 89 John Wise Avenue, Costello, Map 113, Lot 7 *

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system for this property, designed by John Judd and dated June 2, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020. The designer has added the electrical service to the shed as required, and the plan now meets all state and local requirements for upgraded septic systems.

Recommendation: 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 June 2, 2020 with a revision date of June 22, 2020 is approved. The septic system is designed to serve a maximum of 3 bedrooms.

D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

(1) 89 John Wise Avenue, Costello, Map 113, Lot 7

I inspected the bottom of the leaching area, as well as the bottom of the hole for the septic tank/pump chamber combo at this property.

(2) 80 Pond Street, Stavros, Map 154, Lot 47

I inspected the bottom of the installation of the new septic system at this property.

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G. Complaints/Other

- (1) We have had a few complaints regarding lack of social distancing, people eating on the premises of food establishments, and concern about when Centennial Grove and the beaches will be open for the year. Complaints pertaining to COVID-19 mandates were addressed with a visit to the establishment at the time of the complaint. Establishments continue to be monitored and are doing their best to be compliant with the multitude of safety and public health regulations.

(2) Use of the recreational fields in Essex for Youth Sports*

We received several complaints regarding a ball practice held on Wednesday, 6/24, specifically pertaining to the lack of face coverings and social distancing being observed. I contacted the owners of Freedom Baseball, BJ & Loren Weed, and reminded them of the requirements for youth sports during Phase 2; on Friday, 6/25, Mrs. Weed notified me that the coach at the practice in question tested positive for COVID-19.

It has been difficult conducting the contact tracing for the players who may have been exposed to the coach, as limited information has been provided to us. While it is likely that not every player needs to quarantine (specifically because of the 10-15 minute/6' or less separation requirements), we have not received contact information for every parent other than a list of email addresses. The public health nurse in Boxford has assumed responsibility for this task, since each close contact needs to be linked to the index case – and he lives in Boxford.

The Weeds have been proactive and have cancelled this team's practice for 2 weeks from the last date of exposure. I have requested a full roster of any players who will be using the fields in Essex, so that we may conduct proper contact tracing and follow-up in the event this situation happens again. This information has not yet been provided.

Recommendation: Discussion on requirements for using the recreational fields in Essex and whether Freedom Baseball is able to meet those requirements.

G. COVID-19 Updates

(1) Case Count

As of 6/30/2020, Essex has had 25 confirmed positive cases; our webpage is updated with current information when we receive notification of new cases.