

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of August 13, 2020
Report covers from 07/23 – 08/13/2020
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 130 Blueberry Lane, Davidson, Map 144, Lot 30 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by Richard Clarke on July 21, 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, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 21, 2020.

(2) 140 Main Street, Coughlin, Map 136, Lot 8 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by Ron Jenkins on June 30, 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, Ron Jenkins, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on June 30, 2020. The letter should also state that any reconfiguration of the retail/residential space will require a separate evaluation to ensure the system can accommodate the change in use.

(3) 2 Noah's Hill Lane (main house), Tyler, Map 140, Lot 71-2-2 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection of the septic system serving the main dwelling unit at this property, conducted by Rick Clarke and dated July 11, 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 Rick Clarke and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 11, 2020. The inspector noted that the septic tank has a Zabel filter installed in the outlet tee, and this filter should be cleaned at least once per year.

(4) 2 Noah's Hill Lane (cottage), Tyler, Map 140, Lot 71-2 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection of the septic system serving the cottage at this property, conducted by Rick Clarke and dated July 11, 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 Rick Clarke and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 11, 2020. The inspector noted that the septic tank has a Zabel filter installed in the outlet tee, and this filter should be cleaned at least once per year.

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B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations

(1) 1 Laurel Lane, Laurel Lane LLC, Map 209, Lot 29*

I witnessed soil testing at this property as the first step in bringing the failed septic system into compliance. A previously approved septic design utilized soil testing data from a location that would be cost-prohibitive for siting a septic system.

C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

(1) 19 Wood Drive, Gordon College, Map 154, Lot 45*

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system for this property, designed by Dan Johnson and dated June 29, 2020. During the review, the following technical deficiencies or errors were noted:

1. The existing leaching facility is not depicted on the design plan (EDS 600.3.1(f)).
2. A note should be added to the design plan to indicate that a DEP approved effluent filter will be added to the outlet of the existing or proposed septic tank and depict the maintenance requirement for the proposed effluent filter (310 CMR 15.227(7)).
3. The design plan should clearly indicate the pump chamber manhole cover will be set slightly higher than surrounding grade (EDS 100.2.1).
4. Buoyancy calculations were not provided for the proposed pump chamber (310 CMR 15.221(8), EDS 100.3.1). The buoyancy calculations need to assume the ESHGWT is at existing grade since a test pit was not conducted in the proposed location of the tanks (EDS 100.3.1).
5. The design plan did not indicate the center manhole of the pump chamber shall be permanently sealed (EDS 100.2.1).
6. Confirm if the proposed pump meets the requirement of passing 3/4" solids handling and 10 starts per hour (EDS 1100.2).
7. A note needs to be added to the design plan to indicate the pump controls will be lockable (EDS 1100.2).
8. An inlet tee is required on the distribution box inlet (310 CMR 15.232(3)(a), EDS 200.2.1).
9. Confirm the vent will be protected from precipitation and animal entry (310 CMR 15.241(1)(b)).
10. On sheet 1 of 2 in the profile section, the slope from the septic tank to the pump chamber calculates to be 0.005 although it depicts a slope of 0.01.
11. On sheet 1 of 2 in the profile section, the distribution box appears to have only 5" of cover material above the access. 9" of cover is preferred by the Essex Board of Health.
12. On sheet 2 of 2, the pump chamber detail depicts "Ipswich BOH reg".
13. On sheet 2 of 2, note #3 should include inspection by the Board of Health agent as well as the design engineer.

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 June 29, 2020, is disapproved for the reasons outlined above.

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(2) 6 Town Farm Road, Bryer, Map 110, Lot 12*

I have reviewed the proposed tight tank plan for this property, designed by John Judd and dated June 4, 2020 with a revision date of July 16, 2020. The revised plan now meets all state and local requirements for tight tanks.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the proposed tight tank plan, designed by John Judd with a final revision date of July 16, 2020 is approved. The as-built drawing shall reflect that this property is privately owned, rather than leased from the Town, and as such, a notice has been filed with the deeds at the Registry of Deeds indicating that the property is served by a tight tank which is limited to 2 bedrooms/220 gallons per day.

D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

None.

G. Complaints/Other

(1) Cyanobacteria at Chebacco Lake

We received a report, including photos, from a resident who lives on the lake and was concerned about harmful cyanobacteria. This report was forwarded to the Environmental Toxicology Program at the Department of Public Health, who advised that we close the beach area and issue an advisory against swimming and allowing pets to swim in and drink the water. DPH does not test the water if cyanobacteria is visible; however, once it is no longer present, they will conduct 2 tests, one week apart, to determine if the issue has abated and that area of the lake is safe for recreational use.

The beach at Centennial Grove was posted as closed on July 24th and reopened on August 12th; other areas of the lake, including the 'unofficial' beach in Hamilton, were also posted. These advisories have not been fully rescinded, since there are still areas of the lake where cyanobacteria may be present; if it is observed again at the beach at Centennial Grove, DPH will again be notified and the beach will be closed.

Recommendation: None – informational only.

G. COVID-19 Updates

(1) Case Count

As of 7/23/2020, Essex has had 25 confirmed positive cases; our webpage is updated with current information when we receive notification of new cases.