

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of August 27, 2020
Report covers from 08/13 – 08/26/2020
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 8 Deer Hill Farm Road, Stevens, Map 118, Lot 7 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by John Duncan on August 9, 2020. The inspector has noted that the system is experiencing a backup of sewage into the septic tank and distribution box due to an overloaded or clogged leaching area.

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 fails the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 9, 2020. The system shall be upgraded or repaired within 2 years of the date of the inspection, or not later than August 9, 2022. The deadline to bring this system into compliance may be earlier if there is a significant public health or environmental threat.

(2) 1 Noah's Hill Lane, Tyler, Map 140, Lot 71-1 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by John Duncan on August 10, 2020. The inspector has noted that the distribution box is deteriorated and needs replacement, which would typically classify this system as a 'conditional pass' (with the condition being that the system will pass once the distribution box is replaced). However, the inspector also noted that only 1 of the 3 leach lines are accepting liquid; one of the leach lines appears to end approximately 2' out from the d-box, and the other appears to be clogged, with all liquid flowing back into box during the inspection. Without further investigation, this would indicate that the system is in hydraulic or other failure, and the system needs a full replacement.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating we disagree with the determination of the inspector, John Duncan and that the system fails the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 10, 2020. The system shall be upgraded or repaired within 2 years of the date of the inspection, or not later than August 10, 2022. The deadline to bring this system into compliance may be earlier if there is a significant public health or environmental threat. Alternatively, the property owner may perform an additional exploratory inspection to determine the cause of the clogged pipes, which may change this determination.

(3) 15 Turtleback Road, Doyle, Map 147, Lot 12 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection at this property, conducted by Jon Granz on July 24, 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, Jon Granz, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 24, 2020. The inspector has noted that the outlet of the septic tank has an effluent filter installed, which should be cleaned annually, or as needed based on usage.

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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) 210 Southern Avenue, Nally, Map 209, Lot 13.1*

I have reviewed the proposed septic system plan for this property, designed by Vernon LeBlanc and dated June 4, 2020, with a revision date of July 30, 2020. The revised plan now meets all state and local requirements for septic systems.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the proposed septic system plan, designed by Vernon LeBlanc with a final revision date of July 30, 2020 is approved.

- (2) 19 Wood Drive, Gordon College, Map 154, Lot 45*

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system at this property, designed by Dan Johnson and dated June 29, 2020 with a final revision date of August 18, 2020. The revised plan shows all necessary corrections as outlined in our letter dated August 5, 2020.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the septic system design plan, designed by Dan Johnson with a final revision date of August 18, 2020, is approved.

D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

- (1) 21 Lakeview Road, Garinger, Map 145, Lot 5

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

E. Building Permit Applications (informational only)

- (1) 15 Turtleback Road, Doyle, Map 147, Lot 12

I signed the building permit application for the installation of a swimming pool at this property. The drawing shows the proposed swimming pool meets all state and local setbacks from the septic system.

- (2) 86 Pond Street, Jacobs, Map 153, Lot 2

I signed the building permit application for the construction of a garage at this property. The proposed garage meets all state and local setback requirements from the septic system.

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F. Complaints/Other

(1) Cyanobacteria at Chebacco Lake

We have received new reports, including photographs, of cyanobacteria present throughout Chebacco Lake. After speaking with the Health Agent in Hamilton, and corresponding with the environmental toxicologist from MDPH, it was determined that the beach area at Centennial Grove should be closed until further notice; as the rest of the lake is not specifically under the authority of the Board of Health, an advisory was issued for all uses – swimming, boating, and pets (swimming/drinking the water). The Harbormaster was performing routine patrols on the lake over the weekend, and informed boaters and swimmers that cyanobacteria was present throughout the lake and those activities should be avoided.

Recommendation: None – informational only.

G. COVID-19 Updates

(1) Case Count

As of 8/26/2020, Essex has had 25 confirmed positive cases; our webpage is updated with current information when we receive notification of new cases. This is approximately 5 weeks without a positive confirmed case in town.

(2) Flu Clinics*

I met with Lianne, our public health nurse this morning, to discuss how best to proceed with our regular public flu vaccine clinics. There are several issues with holding a public flu clinic – specifically where it would be held, since Town Hall is not open to the public. We discussed holding a drive-through clinic, and considered that staffing would be an issues since many of our regular volunteers are retired/elderly and have already stated they were not available to help at flu clinics in other communities. There is also the expense of PPE and other supplies (signage etc) that is outside our normal operating budget. There is grant funding available to assist with these expenses, which would require ensuring we could get the funding in time to purchase this equipment.

I have researched having CVS hold a clinic in town, and this is a possibility (at no cost to us). Lianne would still hold a small clinic for town employees and first responders, and she would still visit any homebound resident as she typically does.

Recommendation: Discussion on whether to have CVS run our annual public flu clinic.