

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of August 5, 2021**  
*Report covers from 07/22 – 08/04/2021*  
*Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk (\*)*

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

(1) 32 Pond Street, Harlow-Powell, Map 146, Lot 5 \*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on June 21, 2021 by Jon Granz. The inspector has noted that the system is functioning as intended and 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, Jon Granz that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on June 21, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 4 bedrooms, or 440 gallons per day, and is not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder.*

**B. Septic System Design Plan Reviews & Variance Requests**

(1) 4 King's Court, Knight, Map 151, Lot 7\*

The design engineer, John Bennett, working on this project is requesting a variance from Essex Design Standards 600.3.1, which limits septic system plans to a single, 24" x 36" sheet for conventional systems and two, 24" x 36" sheets for an innovative/alternative system. The plan Mr. Bennett has submitted for review is on twenty, 11" x 17" sheets.

Mr. Bennett has requested to allow the plan to be presented on 11 x 17 sheets using as many sheets as required to clearly define the site, the components, soil data, notes and specifications, system ties, system profile, pump station details, pump system curve, alternative system details etc.

*Recommendation: Discussion. Typically, a property of this size and with this many dwellings would require two, 24" x 36" sheets to show all existing structures, property features, and design details at the required scale of 1" = 40' for the plot plan and 1" = 20" for the design details. However, the plan presented has the information required to properly install the septic system on multiple pages, increasing the likelihood that the installer will miss important details. Although the engineer is not proposing to utilize an innovative/alternative system, I recommend allowing a maximum of two, 24" x 36" sheets.*

(2) 9 Hill Road, Resipro, Map 155, Lot 14\*

We have received the plan for the proposed tight tank at this property, designed by Brendan Pyburn with a final revision date of July 13, 2021. The plan is now in compliance with all state and local regulations for holding tanks.

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*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the plan for the proposed tight tank, designed by Brendan Pyburn and with a final revision date of July 13, 2021 is approved. Prior to the issuance of a Disposal works Construction Permit, the property owner shall record a notice with the Registry of Deeds declaring the existence of the tight tank and restricting the dwelling to no more than three bedrooms or 330 gallons per day.*

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

(1) 65R Pond Street, Tyack, Map 154, Lot 4

I inspected the bottom of the leaching area and the septic tank installation at this property.

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

I completed the final inspection and signed the Certificate of Compliance for the upgraded septic system serving this property.

**D. Building Permit Applications (informational only)**

(1) 15 Red Gate Road, Kuhl, Map 145, Lot 21

I signed the demolition permit to remove the existing garage at this property.

**E. COVID-19 & Other Updates**

(1) Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum – Kitchen Variance Request\*

The existing kitchen at the EHSSM is currently permitted on a case-by-case basis for temporary food events, rather than receiving an annual food establishment permit. The kitchen currently has the required 3-bay sink to wash, rinse, and sanitize equipment; and a hand washing sink. The kitchen is lacking the required floor washing/mop sink; due to the lack of space and the infrequent, seasonal operation of this facility, the EHSSM is requesting a variance from these requirement.

*Recommendation: Discussion, and possible vote to grant the variance from the requirement of a mop sink in the seasonal kitchen at the EHSSM.*

(2) Vaccine status

Essex currently has ~73% of its residents with at least one dose of covid vaccine. Through the Greater Cape Ann Community Collaboration, Essex is now hosting weekly vaccine clinics in the Library. These clinics are open to anyone age 12+, and we have both Pfizer and Janssen/J&J. The vaccine incentives of \$10 restaurant gift card for a first dose and a \$25 restaurant gift card for second dose (or single dose J&J) appear to be working, with an increase from 1 vaccination

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at our clinic on 7/22 to 7 at our clinic on 7/29. We have 15 people registered for 8/5. We will continue to offer vaccine clinics on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30am through August.

(3) BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Testing\*

The Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, is making BinaxNOW rapid antigen test kits available to all local Boards of Health. The first step in the approval process is to have our standing orders authorized by a physician. There is no requirement or expectation that the Board of Health will hold regular clinics, but we will have the ability to test people on request, or to hold pop-up clinics at any location in town, provided we have authorization to do so and all staff conducting the tests are properly trained. These test kits are provided at no cost to the community, and all standard reporting requirements will remain in place (whether test result is positive or negative).

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health vote to authorize Dr. Driscoll to sign our standing order to request BinaxNOW rapid antigen test kits.*