

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of February 25, 2021**

*Report covers from 01/21 to 02/25/2021*

*Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk (\*)*

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

(1) 67R Pond Street, Mazzini, Map 154, Lot 3\*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on February 3, 2021 by Jonathan Granz. The inspector noted that the septic tank is leaking and should be replaced, and that the system is otherwise functioning as intended.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating that we are in agreement with the determination of the inspector Jonathan Granz that the system serving this property conditionally passes the Title 5 inspection conducted on February 3, 2021. The leaking septic tank shall be replaced within 2 years of the date of the inspection, or not later than February 3, 2023; the tank may need to be replaced earlier if public health or environmental issues arise due to the failed component. It should also be noted that the system was designed for a maximum of 3 bedrooms, and was deemed acceptable for a maximum of 4 bedrooms after an evaluation of the plan by the Board of Health in 1998.*

**B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations**

(1) 32 Haskell Court, Quinn, Mills, Map 137, Lot 25

I witnessed soil testing at this location as the first step in creating an additional building lot on this large parcel.

(2) 0 Apple Street, Bruce, Map 142, Lot 22

I witnessed soil testing at this location as the first step in developing this vacant parcel.

**C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews**

(1) 111 Belcher Street, Hickey, Map 115, Lot 4.1\*

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system at this recently subdivided property. The plan, designed by John Judd and dated January 11, 2021, meets all requirements for septic systems serving newly developed parcels.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the septic system connection for the new proposed dwelling at this location, designed by John Judd with a design date of January 11, 2021, is approved. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the property owner shall submit the building plans to the Board of Health for review.*

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(2) 65R Pond Street, Tyack, Map `154, Lot 4 \*

I have reviewed the plan for the proposed septic system at this property. The plan, designed by John Judd and dated December 21, 2020, meets all requirements for septic systems serving newly developed parcels.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the septic system connection for the new proposed dwelling at this location, designed by John Judd with a design date of December 21, 2020, is approved for 4 bedrooms or 440 gallons per day. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the property owner shall submit the building plans to the Board of Health for review. The as-built drawing shall reflect the correct map and lot number.*

**D. Complaints**

(1) Farm Bar & Grille, 233 Western Ave, Map 144, Lot 38

We received two complaints (about 3 weeks apart) from the owner of a neighboring property who stated the dumpster at this property is overflowing and attracting rats and mice. I visited the property and noted the dumpster was, in fact, overfull. I spoke with the owner who acknowledged that his dumpster was likely overfull due to the recent snowstorm delaying the routine weekly pick-up by one day. He confirmed this with his contractor (JRM) and stated he would ensure the trash was properly managed in between pick-ups.

*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

(2) Addison Lane smell of marijuana

The Town Administrator and BoH received a complaint from a resident of the Addison Lane neighborhood who stated that the smell of marijuana growing last summer prevented her from enjoying her backyard. She acknowledged that it's not the growing season, but she enquired if there were ways to address this issue in the event it occurs again. This resident was informed to let us know if the growing continued in 2021, and we would research this to determine if it could be addressed under MGL Ch 111, sec 122, the general law that deals with public nuisances.

*Recommendation: None – information only.*

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**E. COVID-19 Updates**

(1) Case Count

As of February 25, 2021, Essex has had 139 confirmed positive cases and 51 so far this year. Our webpage is updated with current numbers when we receive notification of new cases.

We continue to remind residents of the importance of social distancing, wearing face coverings, and hand washing. Contact tracing continues to be an issue, with positive cases not providing the identifying information for their close contacts or acknowledging the isolation requirements.

(2) Vaccination status

As of February 1, 2021, we have started vaccinating members of the general public, beginning with those who are 75+. The phased plan has continued over the past few weeks to begin vaccinating people who are 65+ and individuals who have 2 or more qualifying health conditions. The vaccine roll-out has been discouraging, but there has been some progress: 49% of Essex residents age 75+ have received at least one dose (190/389). More appointments in additional locations continue to become (slowly) available, and we continue to work with Conley's and others to provide smaller clinics for our residents as we wait for guidance from MDPH.