

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of June 10, 2021

Report covers from 05/27 to 06/09/2021

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

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 76 Island Road, Schaut, Map 101, Lot 13 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on May 18, 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 May 18, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 4 bedrooms, or 440 gallons per day.

B. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

(1) 242 John Wise Avenue, Trembley, Map 103, Lot 1 *

I have reviewed the site plan for this property, designed by John Morin and dated June 2, 2021. During my review, I have noted that the proposed flow for the adult use marijuana sales and cultivation facility is within the approved design flow for the existing septic system. Notably, the existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 300 gallons per day. The proposed use includes a maximum of 12 employees for the cultivation/warehouse/dry storage component of the business (12 employees x 15 gpd/employee = 180 gpd) and 2,334 sq ft of retail space (50 gpd/1000 sq ft = 117 pd) for a total of 297 gallons per day.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the site plan designed by John Morin and dated June 2, 2021 is approved by the Board of Health. The building renovations as proposed have an associated daily flow that is within the approved capacity of the existing septic system. Any deviation from this site plan shall require a separate site plan review and submittal to the Board of Health. In addition, this plan does not allow for the preparation or production of any food product, regardless whether or not it is related to the adult use marijuana operation.

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

I have reviewed the tight tank plan for this property, designed by Brendan Pyburn, dated January 7, 2021, and received by our office on June 2, 2021. During my review, I have noted that the designer has failed to show the location of the water service for this property, and has not indicated on the plan whether the dwelling is served by private or municipal water.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating the plan for the proposed tight tank serving this property, designed by Brendan Pyburn, dated January 7, 2021 and received by our office on June 2, 2021 is disapproved by the Board of Health. The designer has failed to show the type and location of water service for this property.

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C. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

(1) 31 County Road, Woodman, Map 143, Lot 51

I inspected the septic system abandonment at this property, so that the dwelling may be connected to municipal sewer.

D. Building Permit Applications (informational only)

(1) 45 Apple Street, Chroust, Map 141, Lot 24

I signed off on the building permit application for an interior renovation of this dwelling. The proposed plan is to move the master bedroom from the second floor to the first floor; the 2nd floor room will be opened up to eliminate privacy, which is one of the criteria to be classified as a bedroom under Title 5. As such, there will be no increase in flow to the septic system with this renovation.

E. Complaints

(1) 19 Wood Drive, Roberts, Map 154, Lot 45

We recently received a complaint about standing water adjacent to the newly installed septic system at this property. This system, installed in January 2021, raised concern with neighbors about the impact of the raised SAS on the nearby wetland area. Review of MA wetland maps, as well as conversations with Ken Whittaker, Agent for the Conservation Commission, indicated that the wet areas were likely related to roadside runoff rather than intermittent or perennial streams resulting in jurisdictional wetlands.

Since there are no jurisdictional wetlands in the vicinity of the SAS, the issue isn't a Conservation Commission one; but rather a possible nuisance to be dealt with by the Board of Health. I spoke with representatives from Gordon College via conference call on Thursday, June 3, 2021, and we agreed that the best way to prevent or mitigate the mosquito breeding resulting from this standing water would be to treat the water with Bti or similar, which is readily available, inexpensive, and does not require a pest control license to apply.

Recommendation: None at this time. We will revisit this in approximately one month to determine if the standing water is creating a nuisance.

(2) 92 Southern Avenue, Perry, Map 140, Lot 54-2

We received a complaint about the conditions of this dwelling, specifically regarding the significant trash on the property, as well as an attached screen porch that has been converted to a chicken coop. An inspection was conducted at this property with the Animal Health Inspector, in the presence of an occupant who was acting as property manager on behalf of the owner. This inspection revealed housing code violations including insufficient smoke detector coverage, lack of screens present on all windows, lack of electrical outlet covers, and other cosmetic issues related to

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building renovation. It was also revealed that there was building renovation/construction being done without proper permits.

Recommendation: None at this time. An Order to Correct was issued for violations of the MA Housing Code (105 CMR 410), and the matter was referred to the Building Inspector. A follow-up inspection will be conducted on June 23, 2021.

(3) Cyanobacteria in Chebacco Lake *

We were recently contacted by Alan McCoy, an Essex resident and Seaside Sustainability employee, on the status of cyanobacteria in Chebacco Lake. Mr. McCoy would like the opportunity to present some research he's done, as well as some ideas he has, to mitigate and prevent a cyanobacteria bloom, which closed the lake to all recreational use during a period in 2020. One proposal included aeration of the lake, at a cost of approximately \$300-350K shared between Essex and Hamilton. In addition, Mr. McCoy also presented a private assessment using data collected by Salem State University in 1998. An updated study to obtain current data would cost approximately \$2500.

We also received correspondence from Ellen Tarkinson, an Essex summer resident, who shared that the Town of Lynnfield is utilizing an herbicidal treatment to combat issues of cyanobacteria in Pillings Pond, in Lynnfield. I was able to obtain the license provided to the Town of Lynnfield for the use of copper sulfate to address nuisance algae and other aquatic plants. Unfortunately, cyanobacteria is not one of the nuisances that can be remediated using herbicides, and DPH typically would not approve this type of mitigation. Instead, DPH recommends preventing the issue using watershed management strategies including advising residents to ensure their septic systems are properly maintained, limiting the use of fertilizer and other products containing phosphorus and nitrogen, and cleaning up after pets to avoid creating a nuisance via rainwater runoff.

Recommendation: Discussion. At our most recent Town Meeting, the Town voted to approve a \$10K match to any grants that might be obtained to deal with Chebacco Lake issues. The Chebacco Lake Watershed Association is collaborating with Essex and Hamilton residents, as well as Seaside Sustainability, to prioritize and attempt to address the environmental lake concerns.

F. COVID-19 Updates

(1) Vaccine Status

Currently, 71% 2477 out of 3508 of all eligible people in Essex age 12+ have had at least one dose of vaccine. The school age group of 12 to 19 has a 61% vaccination rate, with only 243 out of 399 people in this group having had at least one dose. Our coalition continues to do outreach on

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vaccine safety to all eligible populations, as well as ensuring everyone is aware of the many locations offering covid vaccine.

The Cape Ann communities, as well as Hamilton, Wenham, Ipswich, Topsfield, Boxford, and Middleton have formed a partnership called the Greater Cape Ann Community Collaborative (GCACC) to provide regular, standing vaccination clinics in Rockport, Ipswich, and Topsfield; as well as the opportunity for the other communities to host pop-up clinics where they are needed and/or requested.