

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of May 11, 2017
Report covers from 04/27/17 – 05/10/17
Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 25 Turtleback Road, Keenan, Map 147, Lot 5*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on April 10, 2017, by George Norris. I am in agreement with the inspector's determination that this system passes the official Title 5 inspection.

Recommendation: I recommend a letter be sent to the property owner stating the Board of Health is in agreement with the determination of the inspector, George Norris, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on April 10, 2017.

B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations – information only

(1) 19 Turtleback Road, Palermo, Map 147, Lot 11

I witnessed soil testing at this property as the first step in relocating a proposed leachfield for this new-construction home.

(2) 7 John Wise Lane, Weld, Map 113, Lot 12

I witnessed soil testing at this property as the first step in redesigning a previously approved septic design in a different location.

C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

None.

D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

(1) 17 Apple Street, McAdoo, Map 142, Lot 19

I inspected the bottom of the leaching facility for the new septic system serving this property.

(2) 35 Rocky Hill Road, Glass, Map 153, Lot 6

I inspected the installation of a sewer line to connect the bathroom in an accessory building to the septic system serving the main house.

(3) 21 Story Street, Ricci, Map 129, Lot 46

I inspected the distribution box replacement at this property.

(4) 138 Eastern Avenue, Savage, Map 137, Lot 10

I inspected the distribution box replacement at this property.

(5) 23 Turtleback Road, Koelin, Map 147, Lot 6

I signed the Certificate of Compliance for the septic system serving this property. The system was installed in 2010; a memo in the from E.W. in 2013 stated that the as-built design submitted on the owners' behalf was insufficient due to the lack of credentials of the person who drafted the design. There was no additional correspondence until recently, when the owner enquired about sign-off on a building permit application for interior work to the dwelling. The system designer conducted an inspection and drafted an as-built drawing consistent with

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the regulatory requirements, which provided the information required for BoH sign-off on the Certificate of Compliance.

E. Well Water Supply

None.

F. Building Permit Requests

(1) 19 Soginese Road, Spence, Map 112, Lot 7

I signed off on the building permit application for a proposed natural swimming pool at this property.

(2) 23 Turtleback Road, Koelin, Map 147, Lot 6

I signed off on the building permit application requesting permission to add a bathroom to the finished basement.

G. Complaints/Concerns

(1) 186 Southern Avenue, Fortier, Map 151, Lot 6

I conducted an inspection at this property, in the presence of the owner and Karen Tyler, Director of Veterans Services. During my inspection, I found the dwelling to have sufficient running water, heat, and electricity. The dwelling had a refrigerator to store food and a stove to prepare food, and according to the occupant, is served by a privy. There is no evidence that the privy is in failure and/or overflowing, and it appears to be over 100' from any private water supply well. There was no discussion about the gray water system serving the sink and bathroom. This inspection was conducted in response to a complaint that the property did not have heat or electricity; while a comprehensive inspection was not completed on that day, it is my professional opinion that the occupant's basic housing needs are being met and there is not an environmental or public health issue at this property.

Recommendation: None – informational only.

(2) Essex Seafood, 143 Eastern Avenue

I received a call from Lt. Kevin Clayton from the Massachusetts Environmental Police regarding illegal shellfish being served at Essex Seafood. Lt. Clayton stated that during a routine inspection, he found at that this establishment was serving shellfish that did not have proper identification tags; that the digger did not have a valid permit; and that Essex Seafood had purchased shellfish from this individual at least 8 times since January. Lt. Clayton stated that Essex Seafood will be cited and will receive a summons for court, and the Environmental Police will follow-up with the appropriate parties in Gloucester, since that's where the digger is based.

H. Other Business

(1) Extension of Beach Sampling Variance for 2017-2019*

Every two years, the Board of Health needs to apply for an extension of the variance that allows us to test beaches only once per month during the bathing season, rather than the standard once per week. This variance is granted under certain conditions, namely that there haven't been any changes to the beach or surrounding area that could impact the water quality. By signing the variance application for Clammers Beach and Front Beach, we are stating that reducing the testing from once per week to once per month will not create a greater risk to public health.

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Recommendation: I recommend that Dr. Driscoll sign the document titled Application for Extension of Sampling Variance for a Massachusetts Tier 3 Beach for both Clammers Beach and Front Beach, in order to allow for monthly testing for the 2017 and 2018 bathing beach seasons.

(2) 18, 20, 22 Low Land Farm Road, Low Farm Condominium Trust, Map 141, Lots 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3*

The septic system serving this condominium association is under a more stringent inspection requirement than is required by MA DEP, and is almost a more stringent requirement than what is required for similar septic systems serving the other condominiums in this neighborhood. There are notes in the file, as well as in a section of the Master Deed, referencing a quarterly inspection requirement; but there is no reason specified. The septic system has never inspected or maintained the system as required; rather, the system has been inspected pursuant to the state schedule of once per year. There have been no issues noted during these annual inspections, and the property owners are requesting permission to reduce the requirement to the state-mandated annual inspections, rather than the BoH-mandated quarterly inspection.

Recommendation: Discussion. Considering the state requirement is once per year, and the other septic systems of the same type/age are only required to test once per year, I recommend that we allow for the inspection requirement reduction that is being proposed.

(3) Essex Fire Department Volunteer Discussion*

I spoke with Wes Burnham about the possibility of joining the Fire Department as another way to help out or give back to the community. He mentioned that there was a need for EMTs, particularly during the day, and if things were approved and Chief Doucette agreed, I could be trained as an EMT to volunteer on the FD, when available. He stressed that the greatest need was during the day, since many of their volunteers work outside of town. He and Brendhan both requested that I speak with you regarding the issues concerning responding to a call during normal work hours, how that time would be made up, and whether this is something the BoH is comfortable with.

Recommendation: Discussion.

(4) Policy Makers' Forum on Marijuana Legislation, April 28

I attended this forum discussing the new marijuana law, led by an attorney from KP Law, the Walpole Police Chief, and a representative from Boston Children's Hospital. This forum was attended by other local Boards of Health members, City Councilors and members of Boards of Selectmen, as well as police officers, public health nurses, and interested members of the community. Points of interest included the lack of legal information that is currently available, as well as the effects this law will have for healthcare providers, law enforcement, and the community in general

(5) National Drug Disposal Day, April 29

The Board of Health, in conjunction with the Essex Police Department, once again participated in the National Drug Disposal Day. This was our most successful event, in which we collected over 50 pounds of unwanted or expired medications – nearly 15 pounds more than any of our other previous events.