

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of October 18, 2022**

*Report covers from 9/6 – 10/13/22*

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

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

(1) 8 Town Farm Road, Oosterman, Map 110, Lot 13\*

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection of the septic system serving this dwelling, conducted by Randy Burley on October 1, 2022. The inspector referenced the septic tank replacement which was completed on September 29, 2022, and stated that the system was fully functional on the day of 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, Randy Burley and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on October 1, 2022. The system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 2 bedrooms, or 220 gallons per day, and is not designed to accommodate a garbage grinder.*

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

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection of the septic system serving this dwelling, conducted by Timothy Gannon on September 1, 2022. The inspector has reported that the septic system is functioning and passes the official Title 5 inspection; however the inspector failed to reference the accessory building/art studio, and the plumbing connection from this building to the existing septic system is not shown on the sketch.

*Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating that we are unable to accept the inspection report as submitted, and that all structures/plumbing connected to the subject property's septic system are required to be documented in the report and shown on the drawing.*

(3) 28 Lakeshore Drive, Winbigler, Map 155, Lot 1\*

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection of the septic system serving this dwelling, conducted by Jonathan Granz on September 15, 2022. The inspector has noted that the system consists of a septic tank and single leach pit for the primary plumbing; as well as a single dry well for the washing machine discharge. The inspector has also noted that the dwelling is vacant at this time, and recommended the leach pit "be pumped periodically for maintenance."

*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, Jonathan Granz, and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on September 15, 2022. While not required by local*

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*or state regulations, it is recommended that the property owner re-inspect this system after 4-6 weeks of full occupancy, to ensure proper function of all system components under regular use.*

(4) 9 Hill Road, Greenough, Map 155, Lot 14

This property transferred in May 2022 without the required Title 5 inspection or submittal of the voluntary upgrade form. I sent a notice of non-compliance to the property owner, with a 30 day inspection/voluntary upgrade acknowledgement requirement, as well as the MA DEP deadline of 2 years to bring the septic system into compliance if it is, in fact, in failure.

*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

### **B. Septic Plan Reviews**

None.

### **C. Well Reports**

(1) 1 Conomo Point Road, Essex Woods Retreat Center, Map 123, Lot 7

We received a copy of the notice of non-compliance generated by MA DEP after a sanitary survey was conducted for the public water supply system (PWS) at this location. Deficiencies were primarily/administrative in nature, including inconsistent documentation/recordkeeping and outdated sampling and emergency plans. MA DEP provided details for each of the 10 deficiencies, as well as the corrective actions required and the deadlines for completion for each.

*Recommendation: None at this time – informational only. I have requested that the operator of this PWS copy the Board of Health when submitting documentation to MA DEP that each of the action items has been corrected.*

### **D. Other Permit Applications and Requests**

(1) 10 Ice House Lane, Kirker, Map 144, Lot 5

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the demolition of the existing above-ground pool and construction of a new pool in the same location. The demo/construction will have no impact on the existing septic system components.

(2) 30 Apple Street, Bothsides Realty Trust, Map 142, Lot 8

I met with the buyer of this vacant parcel, to discuss possible subdivision and development.

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(3) 56 Eastern Avenue, Ganey, Map 136, Lot 36

We received a request to sign off on a building permit application for the construction of a garage with an apartment. Upon review of the file, it was confirmed that the property was connected to municipal sewer prior to the current owner taking possession; however, the existing septic system was not properly abandoned. The owner has acknowledged that this step needs to be completed prior to the Board of Health signing off on the building permit application.

(4) 22 Lufkin Point Lane, DiBlasi, Map 109, Lot 17

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the construction of a new deck at this property. There will be no impact to the existing tight tank serving this dwelling.

(5) 6 Robbins Island Road, Collins, Map 108, Lot 3

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the construction of an unheated garage at this property. There will be no impact to the existing tight tank serving this dwelling.

(6) 10 Winthrop Street, Havighurst, Map 128, Lot 18

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the construction of a new roof at this location.

(7) 72 Martin Street, Oliver, Map 135, Lot 20

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the demo of the existing deck and construction of a new deck with an addition added to the rear of the house. The dwelling will remain 2 bedrooms and there will be no impact on the existing septic system.

(8) 84 Choate Street, Stone, Map 115, Lot 25

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the construction of an accessory building which will include a barn/storage area as well as a one-bedroom apartment at this location. The existing septic system can accommodate the additional flow; a new septic tank/pump chamber was previously approved by the Board of Health.

(9) 66 Island Road, Russell, Map 101, Lot 8

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the construction of a 3-bay post & beam barn on this property. The barn will not be heated, will have no plumbing, and will not otherwise impact the septic system serving this property.

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(10) 5 Lufkin Street, Tzortzis, Map 126, Lot 37

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the interior renovation/addition of one bathroom in this dwelling. The property is connected to municipal sewer.

(11) 166 Eastern Avenue, Bergeron, Map 138, Lot 9

I reviewed and signed the building permit application for the interior renovation/addition of one bathroom to this commercial building. The property is connected to municipal sewer.

**E. Septic Inspections and Other Field Work**

(1) 64 Spring Street, Little, Map 121, Lot 1

I inspected the newly-installed water line at this location to confirm that the line has been sleeved with PVC as required. This step is required when the sewer line crosses a water line and they are not able to maintain the lateral setback distance outlined in Title 5.

(2) 56 Eastern Avenue, Ganey, Map 136, Lot 36

I inspected the abandonment of the septic tank and (2) leaching pits at this property, which had previously been connected to municipal sewer.

(3) 37 Choate Street, Congdon, Map 105, Lot 14

I witnessed the vacuum test for the new septic tank serving this property, which is part of the upgrade/repair process for the existing, failed system.

(4) 8 Town Farm Road, Oosterman, Map 110, Lot 13

I witnessed the vacuum test for the new septic system serving this property. A Title 5 inspection revealed that the leachfield was functioning, but the septic tank was leaking and needed replacement.

**F. Complaints and Other Updates**

(1) Great Marsh Brewing, 99 Main Street, Map 135, Lot 2\*

Food inspector Bobbie Cody conducted a follow-up inspection of this establishment on September 2, 2022, and found all violations noted in her previous inspection had been corrected. I had email correspondence with Chef Dominique James and Manager Danielle Wolk after the inspection, and requested that they continue to send their daily HACCP logs until the Board of Health formally votes to approve their permit to operate.

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*Recommendation: Discussion, and possible vote to approve FSE permit #36 to operate during 2022.*

### **(2) Fee Schedule Updates\***

It has been several years since the Board of Health updated our fee schedule. I emailed the BoH my suggested changes, including slight increases in annual food service establishment fees and some of the new construction septic-related fees.

*Recommendation: Discussion, and possible vote to update our fee schedule.*

### **(3) 10 Coral Hill Road, Turnage, Map 154, Lot 32**

We received a complaint from the occupant of this single-family dwelling, who reported there is a significant presence of “black mold” in her bathroom, and she requested someone from the Board of Health perform sampling/testing of this material. I explained that the BoH doesn’t have sampling or testing equipment for this and, in fact, the housing code does not currently include mold as violation. I clarified that we can still inspect the dwelling, and if there are conditions that are conducive to mold growth i.e. poor ventilation and/or water leaks, those violations would be cited in an order to correct.

*Recommendation: None at this time. An inspection has been scheduled for 3:30pm on October 13<sup>th</sup>.*

### **(4) Open Door's Mobile Market**

We recently had a meeting with school officials, concerned community members, and representatives from the Open Door to discuss the feasibility of having a regularly scheduled mobile market at each of the schools in the district. The mobile market allows for local residents to shop for fresh produce and protein choices, as well as nutrition education and recipes – all provided at no cost. Kick-off events were held on Sept. 22 at EES and Sept. 29 at the Middle/High School, and will be setting up a monthly schedule starting in October.

### **(5) Dead bird found on Lanes Road**

We received a complaint about a dead bird found on Lanes Road. The complainant was provided with the link to MassWildlife’s online complaint/notification form.

### **(6) Flu Clinics**

We held flu clinics at the Senior Center and Chebacco Terrace on October 5 (61 residents/employees) as well as at the Public Safety Building for our first responders (15 employees). We will continue to do home visits for homebound residents, upon request, and our primary flu vaccine clinic will be held during ClamFest on October 22.

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### **(7) Covid Boosters**

Since the Essex Town Hall auditorium is not available for large-scale clinics until late October, Rachel Lee (regional public health nurse) is going to offer bivalent booster shots to visitors to the Smithsonian exhibit one or 2 days per week. Our coalition continues to hold regular clinics in Hamilton, Manchester, Rockport, and Topsfield. We also recently held a booster clinic at the Public Safety Building for our first responders, as well as a booster clinic for residents of Chebacco Terrace.

### **(8) Online permitting**

The transition to online permitting for Inspectional Services (Building, Plumbing, Gas, and Electrical Inspectors) has been relatively seamless and has proven to provide a higher, more efficient level of service to contractors and residents alike. The next step reasonable step would be for the Board of Health permits (food, septic, tobacco) to be available online. Town Meeting approval would be required to fund this transition, and we are anticipating this request will be presented at the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

### **Essex Confirmed Case Counts**

October 2021:	10	May 2022:	39
November 2021:	55	June 2022:	16
December 2021:	116	July 2022:	21
January 2022:	87	August 2022:	13
February 2022:	16	September 2022:	16
March 2022:	13	October 2022:	8
April 2022:	23	(to date)	