

**Administrator's Report**  
**Board of Health Meeting of October 8, 2015**

*Report covers from 9-24 to 10-7, 2015*

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

**A. Inspection Report Reviews**

(1) 106 Choate Street, Keough, Map 116, Lot 6\*

I reviewed the inspection reports for both systems serving this property – one for the stables (875 gpd) and one for the barn/apartment (1054 gpd), and am in agreement with the inspector, George Norris, that both systems pass based on the inspections conducted on September 11, 2015.

*Recommendation: I recommend that a letter be sent to the property owner stating that the Board is in agreement with the determination of the inspector, George Norris, and that **these systems passed the inspections, performed on September 11, 2015.***

**B. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations**

None.

**C. Septic System Design Plan Reviews**

(1) 82 Conomo Point Road, Amirault, Map 110, Lot 8\*

I have reviewed the septic design for this property, designed by John Judd and dated September 29, 2015. I have found this design to be in compliance with local and state Title 5 regulations.

*Recommendation: I recommend that a letter be sent to the property owner stating that the Board of Health **approves this septic design dated September 29, 2015.***

**D. Septic System Installations/Abandonments**

(1) 42 County Road, Stavros, Map 143, Lot 75

I inspected the abandonment of the septic tank and leaching pits at this property in anticipation of connection to municipal sewer.

*Recommendation: None – informational only*

**E. Building Permit Applications & Occupancy Permits**

(1) 15 Lufkin Street, Pereen, Map 126, Lot 33

I reviewed the demolition permit and building permit applications for this property. I noted that both the asbestos survey and exterminator's report showed compliance. As this property is served by municipal sewer, building plan review by BoH for compliance with Title 5 regulations is not required; I signed the

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demolition permit application and made a note that building plan review is not required provided all other setbacks are met.

*Recommendation: None – informational only*

**F. Well Water Supply Certificates**

None.

**G. Meetings Attended (for information only)**

(1) Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative – September 29

Meeting held with Susan Coviello (North Shore Health Project), Joan Whitney (Healthy Gloucester Collaborative), Police Chief Pete Silva, and Sgt. Paul Francis (Essex PD) to discuss the recent regional grant that was awarded to the 4 Cape Ann communities with a focus on sustained policy and practices to reduce/eliminate underage drinking. The first stage of implementation is a community needs assessment (survey of licensee infractions, data collection of FD/DP run sheets, etc). In addition, Ms. Whitney spoke about programs in Cape Ann schools, interviewing 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders about risky behaviors – SBIRT, or “screening-based intervention & referral to treatment.”

(2) North Shore & Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Coalition – September 30

Meeting held in Peabody with Region 3D Coalition members to discuss ongoing projects, community concerns, and upcoming events: Peabody drive-thru flu clinic (10/17) and Gloucester panel discussion on fluoride in the drinking water (10/19).

(3) Cape Ann Emergency Planning Team – October 1

Meeting held in Rockport with CAEPT members to discuss regional emergency preparedness issues; specifically flu clinic planning, all-hazards planning and training/EDS drills.

**H. Complaints**

(1) 12 Harry Homans Road, Burke, Map 143, Lot 10

Occupant called to state that the roof was leaking and asked for immediate condemnation letter. I was unable to do an inspection until the following day, but contacted the property owner to inform him of the situation. He returned my call approximately 1 hour later and stated that he had a contractor on his way to the property to put a tarp up (since it was pouring rain). I went to the house the following afternoon but no one answered the door. Subsequent attempts to do an

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inspection were unsuccessful; however, there is a tarp present on the roof and I have not heard from the occupant. I was also contacted by the Lynn Housing Authority, who stated that the occupants had contacted her for assistance in relocating. I informed her that I was unable to condemn the property based on a verbal complaint from the occupant, but that the owner had temporarily dealt with the leaking roof.

*Recommendation: None – informational only.*

(2) 16A Southern Avenue, Dezarn, Map 136, Lot 92-16A\*

I received a complaint from the occupant of this property and an inspection was conducted on 9/29/15. Violations found during inspection included broken and deteriorated window frames, smell of gas when the oven was turned on, burning smell when bathroom fan was turned on, and holes in the floors/walls in a number of locations throughout the unit. An order letter was sent to the property owner indicating the stove/oven and bathroom fan needed to be inspected and repaired within 48 hours; all other violations need to be connected within 30 days. Reinspection is scheduled for 11/9/15 at 2:00pm.

*Recommendation: I recommend that the Board retroactively approve the Administrator sending a letter to the property owner outlining the violations found during the inspection on 9/29/2015.*

(3) 16-18 Southern Ave, 16-18 Southern Ave. Condo Trust, Map 136, Lot 92\*

In response to the complaint by the occupant of 16A Southern Avenue, I also conducted an inspection of the common areas of this condominium unit. Violations were found that were in existence during the August 17, 2015 inspection but were not cited: common hallways and passageways are not lit 24 hours a day (410.254); common hot water heater (for washing machine) does not function (410.351); and main exterior door does not have automatic lock/intercom system (410.480 – refers to MGL and building code). Note: the condo association has not complied with the previous order for repairs with the exception of a comprehensive lead inspection being completed.

*Recommendation: Discussion on timeline for citing these violations.*

**I. Hazards Abated Via Enforcement Orders**

None

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**J. Other Updates**

(1) Vector Disease Control International, Inc\*

I received an email from Amory Thorndike, “business development representative” for this company, requesting a meeting to discuss mosquito surveillance and control. In reviewing the website for this company ([www.vdci.net](http://www.vdci.net)), I found that they are a private company offering municipalities and mosquito control districts everything from surveillance to catch basin treatments to aerial spraying.

I reached out to Dr. Catherine Brown, the state veterinarian working for MDPH, to get her opinion on this company; she stated that the testing procedures the company uses aren't as specific as the state test, making their results difficult to both interpret and integrate into any sort of measurable way. In addition, this company is only familiar with WNV habitat and testing – as of yet, they are not doing anything with EEE surveillance or control. Dr. Brown suggested reaching out to the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board for more information.

*Recommendation: Discussion*

- (2) I created a Facebook page for the Board of Health as another source of updates and information. Feel free to “like” and “share”!
- (3) The Board of Health/Essex Police Dept collected approximately 40lbs of unwanted prescription and non-prescription pills during the National Drug Take-Back Day.
- (4) Peabody Health Department has submitted the grant application to the FDA for \$20,000 in funding for training, equipment, and supplies (forms, etc). If the grant is awarded to Peabody, Essex will have the opportunity to vote to adopt the FDA's 2013 Food Code (with 12 other communities) and receive a portion of this award.
- (5) Restaurants in town have been given an application for a grant sponsored by TURI – Toxics Use Reduction Institute. Up to \$10,000 is available for small businesses who are “prepared to purchase and install new equipment or materials to reduce the use of toxic chemicals.” The application deadline is October 30, 2015, and this was also posted on the Essex News & Notices page.

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(6) Upcoming events:

- a. Peabody Drive-Thru Flu Clinic. October 17, 2015, 10am-1pm, Peabody DPW (50 Farm Ave)
- b. "The Science Behind Community Water Fluoridation" sponsored by the Gloucester Health Department. October 19, 2015, 7pm, Kyrouz Auditorium
- c. "Let's Talk About Food" program discussion and public release of draft Massachusetts Food Plan. Open comment period will include discussions on how to increase sales, production, and consumption of MA-grown foods; how to create jobs and economic opportunity in food and farming and improve the wages and skills of food system workers; how to protect the land and water needed to produce food, maximizing environmental benefits, and ensuring safety at the same time; and how to reduce hunger and food insecurity. This is sponsored by Dept of Agricultural Resources and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. October 23, 2015, 9:30am, Boston State House.