

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of September 9, 2021

Report covers from 08/06 – 09/08/2021

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

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 208 Southern Avenue, Nally, Map 209, Lot 13 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on August 21, 2021 by Timothy Willey. 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, Timothy Willey, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 21, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 3 bedrooms, or 330 gallons per day, and is not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder. Note: the carriage house plumbing has not yet been connected to the existing system, and the main dwelling will require removal of one bedroom prior to the issuance of a DWCP to connect the one-bedroom carriage house.

(2) 50 Apple Street, Greenbaum, Map 141, Lot 11 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on July 14, 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 July 14, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 3 bedrooms, or 330 gallons per day, and is not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder.

(3) 17 Low Land Farm Road, Abram, Map 141, Lot 5-1*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on August 9, 2021 by Jon Granz. The inspector has noted that the shared 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 shared system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 9, 2021. This system shall be inspected every 3 years, or sooner if required by the reasons outlined in 310 CMR 15.

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(4) 19 Low Land Farm Road, Bappe, Map 141, Lot 5-2*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on August 9, 2021 by Jon Granz. The inspector has noted that the shared 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 shared system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 9, 2021. This system shall be inspected every 3 years, or sooner if required by the reasons outlined in 310 CMR 15.

(5) 21 Low Land Farm Road, Briggs, Map 141, Lot 5-3*

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on August 9, 2021 by Jon Granz. The inspector has noted that the shared 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 shared system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 9, 2021. This system shall be inspected every 3 years, or sooner if required by the reasons outlined in 310 CMR 15.

(6) 100 Belcher Street, Ricci, Map 115, Lot 14 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on August 16, 2021 by John Duncan. 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, John Duncan that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on August 16, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 3 bedrooms, or 330 gallons per day, and is not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder.

(7) 58 Western Avenue, Jaremsek, Map 134, Lot 72 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on July 29, 2021 by Michael Hale. The inspector has noted that the SAS is within the seasonal high water table, and as such, the system does not pass 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, Michael Hale that the system fails the

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official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 29, 2021. The dwelling shall be connected to municipal sewer within 2 years from the date of inspection, or not later than July 29, 2023. The Board of Health may order the property to complete the sewer connection earlier if the failing system creates a public health or other environmental hazard.

B. Septic System Design Plan Reviews & Variance Requests

(1) 26 John Wise Lane, Hines, Map 101, Lot 32*

The property owner has submitted a site plan prepared by Robert Griffin and dated July 6, 2021, showing 2 locations for a proposed well on this property. The primary location requested meets all state and local setback requirements (55.2' from the proposed tight tank on the subject property and 126.5' from the neighboring septic system); the alternate location proposed is the minimum 50' from the proposed tight tank on the subject property and only 78.9' from the neighboring septic system (where 100' is required).

The property owner is requesting that both proposed locations be approved. In the event that the primary location is determined to be unsuitable at the time it is drilled, the well company will already have all equipment on-site to move to the alternate location without delay. No variance is required for the primary location, but the alternate location requires a better notification with 10 days advance notice of the hearing, as well as a BoH vote on the variance request.

Recommendation: Discussion on whether to approve the variance to site a well less than 100' to a soil absorption system when a primary location that meets all setback requirements is feasible.

C. Septic System Installations/Abandonments (informational only)

(1) 65R Pond Street, Tyack, Map 154, Lot 4

I conducted the final inspection for the new septic system serving this property.

D. Building Permit Applications (informational only)

(1) 52 Main Street, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, Map 128, Lot 149

I signed the permit application to demolish the garage and rectory at this property.

(2) 1 Laurel Lane, Laurel Lane LLC, Map 209, Lot 29

I signed the permit application to install storage tanks for water and natural gas on this property.

(3) 210 Southern Avenue, Nally, Map 209, Lot 13.1

I signed the permit application to construct a 3-bedroom dwelling at this property.

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- (4) Lot 6B Low Land Farm Road, Brown Dog Properties, LLC, Map 142, Lot 2

I signed the permit application to construct a 5-bedroom dwelling at this property.

E. Complaints

- (1) 73 Story Street, Landry, Map 134, Lot 25

We received a complaint via email from a neighbor who is concerned about the number of residential units in this dwelling, the number of individuals living in each unit, and the amount of trash accumulating on the property. The neighbor was concerned that the dwelling was illegally converted to a single-family home to a duplex. Upon review of the file, I found that the property was properly connected to municipal sewer in 2006, and the BoH wouldn't have any regulatory authority over the building conversion. I visited the property and did note 6-8 heavy duty contractor-type trash bags stacked to the side of the driveway, but the bags were intact at the time of my inspection and did not appear to be attracting rodents or creating any other public nuisance i.e. there was no obvious odor or excessive flies, etc in the area.

Recommendation: None at this time.

- (2) Single-use plastics in Essex restaurants

We received complaints that a handful of restaurants in town are still using single-use plastic products, which were prohibited from use as of July 1, 2021. I have reached out to the managers/owners of each restaurant and am awaiting a response.

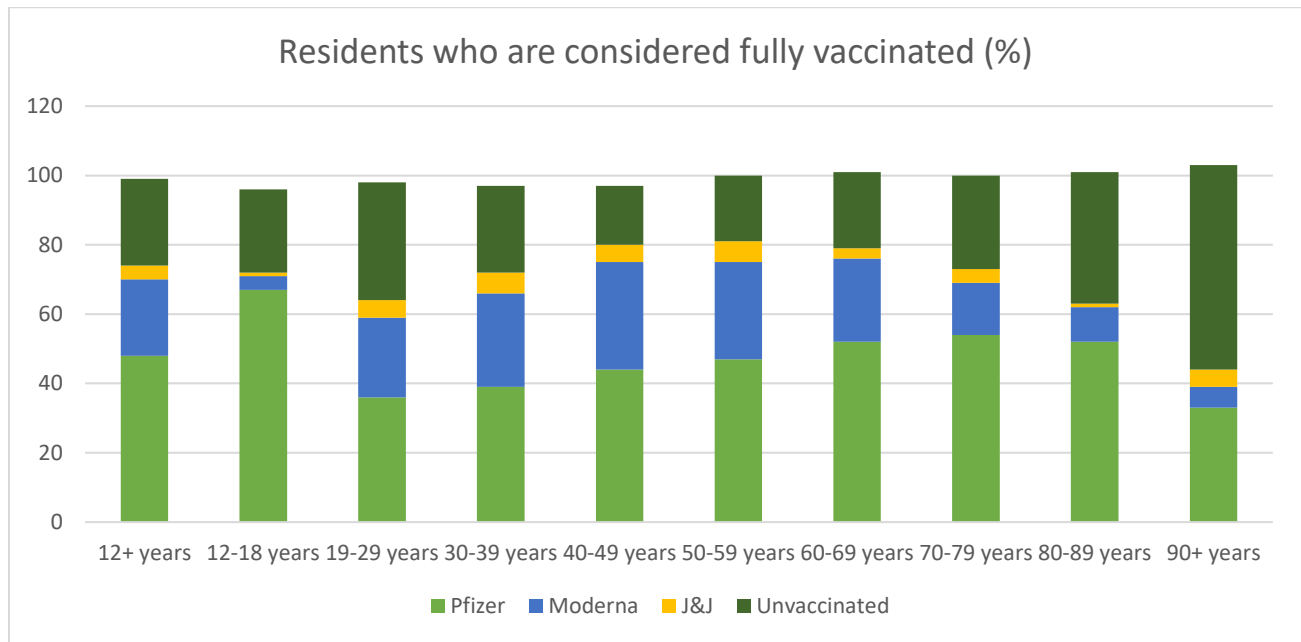
Recommendation: None at this time.

F. COVID-19 & Other Updates

- (1) Vaccine status

Currently, 72% of Essex residents age 12+ are fully vaccinated. We spent \$1,440 on vaccine incentives (\$10 and \$25 gift cards) provided 103 1st and/or 2nd doses to Essex residents. Vax rates for eligible school-age kids and those in the 40-70 year range continue to slowly increase, while the 19-39 year demographic has been relatively stagnant. I assume that we have some measureable percentage of the older population who lives elsewhere during the winter months and may have been vaccinated in another state (which would not be reflected in the MA data). We continue to hold weekly vaccine clinics and will likely be able to offer booster shots, either weekly during our regular clinics or just as a one-time event during our flu clinic on October 16th.

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(2) Positive Case Count

Of the most recent 18 cases in Essex (since May 1), 13 are unvaccinated individuals; 1 is a breakthrough Moderna case; 1 is a breakthrough J&J case; and 3 are breakthrough Pfizer cases. All vaccinated breakthrough positives are largely asymptomatic, with some reporting symptoms similar to a head cold.

(3) BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Testing

We have received 80 test rapid test kits and have completed the online registration process to conduct Ag tests in the Board of Health office. I have informed town employees that we can perform rapid tests in Town Hall if they have had a known exposure. All tests results – positive and negative – shall be reported to MDPH in accordance with the user agreement.