

BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

8-11-22

3rd floor Auditorium, Town Hall, 30 Martin Street, Essex, MA

Dr. David Driscoll, Chair, Ms. Sally Ann Rich, Clerk, Ms. Erin Kirchner, Health Agent, and Ms. Michelle Muise, Administrative Clerk, present. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf, Member, not present.

Dr. Driscoll opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

- **Appointments**

- **Minutes**

July 14, 2022: Tabled

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion for the Board to approve the minutes, as written, for July 28, 2022. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Bills Payable**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion for the Board to approve bills payable #697, in the amount of \$1,232.38. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Title 5 Inspection Reports**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion for the Board to sign and send a letter to Paula Blunda and Peter Andrews, 48 Story Street, Map 134, Lot 47, stating that the Board is in agreement with the determination of the inspector, Ron Perkins, that the septic system fails the official Title 5 inspection conducted on July 15, 2022. The inspector has noted that the soil absorption system is sited below the estimated seasonal high water table, as well as that the washing machine discharges to a separate dry well, and this leaching area is full of “stone and dirt”; the Board requires that the property owner connect all plumbing serving this 3-bedroom dwelling, including the washing machine discharge pipe, to municipal sewer no later than July 15, 2024. The property owner may also be required under the State Environmental Code, Title 5 (31 CMR 15.000) “to perform interim measures (for example, regular pumping)” in order to prevent an imminent health hazard. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Septic Plan Reviews**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion for the Board to approve the septic plan for 31 Apple Street, Map 142, Lot 14. The plan was designed by Dan Johnson on June 6, 2022. The system is designed for a maximum of 4 bedrooms, or 440 gallons per day. The proposed plan includes a request from the designer for a variance to reduce the distance between the ESHWT and the bottom of the leaching area from the required 4’ to the allowed 2’ in accordance with the Presby Enviro-Septic System Special Conditions. The Owner’s acknowledgement of the Presby System requirements has been signed by the previous owner. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion for the Board to approve the septic plan for 42 Wood Drive, Map 154, Lot 12. The plan was designed by John Judd and dated July 19, 2022 and is proposed to serve the two existing dwellings on the property, for a total of 4 bedrooms or 440 gallons per day. The plan for the system includes a variance request for a reduction in pervious material from the required 4’ to 2’. The reduction is allowed with the use of the proposed Presby Advanced Enviroseptic pipe in a field configuration. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of

Compliance for this system, the property owner shall provide to the Board of Health a contract identifying the requirements for an annual inspection with a trained Presby operator, as well as documentation showing this system type and inspectional requirements have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Well Water Report**
- **Permits**
- **Other Concerns, Issues & BOH Business**

Dr. Driscoll entertained the motion to send a letter to the new owner of 5 Cogswell Road, Map 110, Lot 28, with the details of the failed septic system at this location, as well as a reminder of the November 18, 2022 deadline to install the approved tight tank. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion to send a letter to the owner of The Boathouse Grille, 234 John Wise Avenue, Map 105, Lot 19, reminding them of the importance of proper maintenance of the grease trap and septic system. This includes regular pumping as well as limiting the amount of fats, oils, and grease that are washed down the drain. The Board of Health also requests that the grease trap continue to be pumped monthly until further notice. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion to approve Ms. Kirchner's leave use authorization for the dates specified. Leslie Whelan will be available for emergencies while Ms. Kirchner is away in August, 2022. Ms. Rich so moved. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Items that could not be reasonably anticipated by the Chairman within 48 hours of meeting**
Presentation: Ms. Kirchner presented information regarding the Public Health Excellence Grant on behalf of Ms. Rachel Lee, the regional public health nurse. Ms. Kirchner discussed the grant deliverables, including completion of a DPH-initiated assessment of our department's baseline knowledge/training; as well as ways we can work towards the goal of standardized excellence in public health. This grant has also opened an opportunity for the hiring of a social worker who will assist the towns of Essex, Hamilton, Wenham, and Rockport.

Discussion: Dr. Driscoll discussed the deadlines for the agenda posting and submittal of Administrator's Report. Ms. Rich notes that the decision to have the agenda closed and materials presented to the Board on Mondays the week of the Board meetings has already shown to be beneficial, however there are many Monday holidays where the Board of Health office is closed. For weeks when these holidays occur the agenda and materials would be pushed back to Tuesdays. Ms. Rich inquired if it may be possible to have materials presented at 3:00 the Friday before the meetings. Ms. Kirchner noted that, due to the Town Hall being closed to the public, we do not receive mail on Fridays that may be essential to the agenda, and Friday staff hours are from 7:30am to 12:00pm. This new information will be taken into consideration and revisited at a future meeting.

Dr. Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm

Next BOH meeting: 8-25-2022

Prepared by:_____ Attested by:_____

Michelle Muise

Ms. Sally Ann Rich

Date Signed:_____