

Administrator's Report

Board of Health Meeting of November 18, 2021

Report covers from 10/4 – 11/17/2021

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

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 18 Low Land Farm Road, Beardsley, Map 141, Lot 4-3 *

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection conducted at this property on September 14, 2021. 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 Jonathan Granz and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on September 14, 2021. This shared system shall be inspected at least every 3 years, and the effluent filters present in the septic tanks shall be cleaned annually.

(2) 20 Low Land Farm Road, Doyle, Map 141, Lot 4-2 *

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection conducted at this property on September 14, 2021. 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 Jonathan Granz and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on September 14, 2021. This shared system shall be inspected at least every 3 years, and the effluent filters present in the septic tanks shall be cleaned annually.

(3) 22 Low Land Farm Road, Cann, Map 141, Lot 4-1 *

I have reviewed the report for the Title 5 inspection conducted at this property on September 14, 2021. 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 Jonathan Granz and that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on September 14, 2021. This shared system shall be inspected at least every 3 years, and the effluent filters present in the septic tanks shall be cleaned annually.

(4) 5 Cogswell Road, Appellofft, Map 110, Lot 28 *

This property is one of the final dwellings that is past due to upgrade the septic system as part of the Conomo Point enforcement the Town is under from the MA DEP. The existing septic system was deemed to be in failure after an inspection conducted in 1998 by Dan Johnson. The property owner acknowledged the failure and had a new system (tight tank) designed by John Judd and approved by the Board of Health in 2015.

In October 2020 and October 2021, John Duncan conducted inspections to refute the results of the initial inspection. He stated in his report that the system passes all Title 5 criteria and that it appears "some sort of repairs must have been done"; however, there is no record of any such repairs. At our meeting on October 14, 2021, Mr. Duncan again acknowledged that it appeared repairs had been made. This discussion was

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continued so that I could observe an inspection of this system, and so Mr. Duncan could provide the Board of Health with any records of the repair.

Recommendation: Discussion on how to proceed, and whether to accept the passing Title 5 reports without further documentation or additional inspections. Mr. Duncan did note that the existing septic tank has no inlet or outlet tee; these should be installed even if the BoH requires no additional work or inspections.

B. Septic System & Well Installations/Abandonments (information only)

(1) 17 Water Street, Lahey, Map 127, Lot 11

I witnessed soil testing at this property as the first step in subdividing it to create 3 separate building lots.

(2) 1 Noah's Hill Way, Noah's Hill Way Trust, Map 140, Lot 71-1

I witnessed soil testing at this property as the first step in subdividing it to create an additional building lot

C. Complaints/Concerns

(1) Single Use Plastics Ban

We had a complaint that one of the establishments in town was not in compliance with the requirements outlined in the single use plastics ban bylaw. The bylaw requires that any single use products meet the ASTM standards for compostability.

I met with the business owner and went over the requirements in the bylaw. He acknowledged that all products used in his establishment are in compliance with the bylaw except for a plastic cover for one of their take out containers. He has been working with his distributor and now is in full compliance.

Recommendation: None, informational only.

D. COVID-19 & Other Updates

(1) Vaccine updates

Currently, 73% of Essex residents age 12+ are considered fully vaccinated. We are still running weekly vaccine clinics at Town Hall (Thursdays from 10:30am to 12:30), and have administered 464 vaccines in Essex since mid July, including home-bound individuals. *Note, our vaccine clinics are open to any resident of MA, and so this 464 is not just Essex residents.

We will continue to run vaccine clinics on Thursdays through the end of the year, and may continue depending on level of interest. We will also be holding pediatric Pfizer clinics on Friday afternoons, with our first pedi clinic scheduled for 11/19 from 3-5pm.

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(2) Positive Case Count

Our case count is 277 overall, and 189 for the year (Jan 1 to present) – an increase of 37 from our previous meeting on October 14th. Of those 37 cases: 11 are unvaccinated, 2 are J&J breakthrough cases, 6 are Moderna breakthrough cases, and 18 are Pfizer breakthrough cases. We have had no vaccinated hospitalizations and fewer than 5 hospitalizations total in the last month.

(3) Neighboring Community Updates

Community	Requirement	Timeline	Pos. rate 11/11	Pos. rate 11/18
Essex	Town buildings	Ongoing	4.89%	7.34%
Manchester	Indoor/public	Exp. 12/2	1.04%	2.49%
Gloucester	Town buildings	Ongoing	2.71%	4.65%
Rockport	Town buildings	Ongoing	1.29%	4.65%

(4) BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Testing

We continue to offer rapid Antigen tests to town employees using the BinaxNOW test kits provided by DPH. All results are reported to DPH as required, and symptomatic individuals are still recommended to obtain a PCR test, even if the Ag is negative.