

BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes for Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 7:00 PM
Remote Participation

- 7:00 Minutes
- 7:15 75 Peter Hans Road (O'Brien) – request to modify existing Deed Restriction to accommodate new addition
- 7:30 288 Lowell Street (Guecia) – Deed Restriction request to add rooms

DISCUSSION ITEMS

COVID-19 –

- Status Report
- Mask Mandate

Glass Recycling Proposition

Fern's Country Store – Water Issue Update

- 8:00 Benfield Farms Septic Upgrade (To be Rescheduled)
- 8:05 Garrison Place – discussion of Permit Conditions

New Business

The meeting agenda lists all topics reasonably anticipated by the Board of Health at the time of posting. Additional topics not anticipated may be discussed at the meeting under the agenda item New Business.

Attendance members: Tony Mariano Chairman, Jean J Barry, Patrick Collins, David Erickson, Catherine Galligan
Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Rob Frado, David Model (Selectboard liaison), Wanda Avril (Carlisle Mosquito), Mark Beaudry (Meridian Systems), Jack Huntress, Carrie Patel, 978-254-5943, Ken Ayres, Gerry Boucher, Phil Giffey, Phil Herman, Matt Herweck, Michael Joseph, Joey LaPointe, Robert Lilley, Karla Miller, Mike O'Brien, Kim Packard (SWSS), Debbie Trumbull, Jennifer Wall

1. Minutes

Galligan moved and Barry seconded that the minutes from 8/25/21 be approved with the change that Selectboard should be Selectboard. It was approved unanimously.

Barry moved and Galligan seconded that the minutes from 9/7/21 be approved. The minutes were approved with Collins abstaining.

Mariano asked whether we got counsel feedback on minutes, Fantasia said that counsel said that any sitting member can vote to approve minutes even if they were not present at the meeting.

2. Senior Flu Clinic

The flu clinic was quite successful with 128 doses administered. Wallgreens did an excellent job and Fantasia thanked them for doing this. In addition, Fantasia got a nice thank you from St. Irene's--although we feel that we should thank them. We didn't get Wallgreens' form until the day of the clinic and that introduced some confusion which made it a bit more difficult. It was suggested to limit the number of people during the first 1/2 hour which often has delays, but it might have been difficult to schedule; in the future it would be good to go over the paperwork in advance.

3. 75 Peter Hans Road (O'Brien) – request to modify existing Deed Restriction to accommodate new addition

The septic system has a 4-bedroom capacity. Mike O'Brien is the owner and Miller is the builder, they propose to finish basement rooms which would raise the room count from 12 to 13 rooms which would technically require a 6-bedroom system; however, they are legally grandfathered and while the existing system was designed for 4

bedrooms the field size was increased to accommodate a garbage grinder under local regulations. The renovation would add a playroom for their girls and exercise room with a 1/2 bath. The area only has small basement windows so these rooms could not be classified as bedrooms. There is currently a deed restriction to restrict the property to 4 bedrooms and they are asking to allow 13 rooms rather than 12, keeping the number of bedrooms at 4. Mariano said he is not a fan of deed restrictions since they are difficult to enforce but given that they already have such a restriction we need to consider whether to allow the addition of another room. Barry's perspective is that the rooms added will not have proper windows so cannot be classified as bedrooms, although Mariano noted that Title 5 talks of rooms, not bedrooms. Galligan is concerned that the current system is 22 years old, and they already have a deed restriction. Mariano noted that if the system should fail it would need to be replaced with a 6-bedroom system and he asked whether there was a reserve area that could be used. Fantasia said that this was a repair system which does not require a reserve area so there is no reserve area specified. O'Brien stated that there is plenty of room to put in a bigger septic. Galligan said that would need an engineer's confirmation. The builder asked whether a Title 5 analysis would help. Galligan said a Title 5 analysis doesn't give guarantees; we need to know if a 6-bedroom system could be installed.

Mariano noted that the only change is a finished basement. Fantasia noted that this system was 440 GPD+50% at the time of construction; this qualifies as a six-bedroom system (660 GPD) without a garbage grinder under current regulations; Mariano noted that we could prohibit a garbage grinder. In response to a question by Collins it was noted that the property had two recent Title 5 Inspections, one in 2016 and another in 2019 which found everything in good working condition. Barry moved we impose a garbage grinder deed restriction to accommodate the proposed renovations, Collins seconded it, the motion was approved 4-1 with Galligan opposing.

4. 288 Lowell Street (Guecia) - Deed Restriction request to add rooms

288 Lowell St is a deed restriction issue. The applicant is not present because they don't zoom. The house has a 3-bedroom septic system and currently has 2 bedrooms. They wish to add a family room, den and 3rd bedroom over an existing garage which will put the house at 8 rooms with 3 bedrooms. The current system is sized for 495 gal/day (three bedrooms with the required garbage grinder allowance), and they would be willing to put in a garbage grinder deed restriction in exchange for the new rooms. Galligan asked the age of the system and whether it has a Title 5 analysis. Fantasia said it was installed in 1998 and has no Title 5 analysis. Mariano asked whether it was similar to the last item. Fantasia said it was but more modest. Galligan suggested that we could require Title 5 inspection. Collins asked if there is a restriction on the den becoming a bedroom. Fantasia said they could never market it as a 4-bedroom house. Barry moved that we add a garbage grinder restriction for 288 Lowell Rd. Galligan proposed an amendment to also add a satisfactory Title 5 inspection as a condition. Collins seconded the amendment, which was then approved 4-1 with Erickson apposed. The motion was then approved unanimously.

5. Ferns Country Store water update

Fantasia met with store's owner--Ferns is under a boil water order because of coliform and e-coli. They are working with the state and are looking at the well and septic system. They have posted a sign. The well is old and about 100' deep and will be inspected with a camera tomorrow by Skillings. Matt Herweck, Fern's owner, reported that SWSS (Small Water Systems Services) has done testing and chlorinated the well but have been unable to get a clean set of results. The septic is to be pumped Wednesday, 10/13/21 and inspected by the town. The rest room uses a waterless composting toilet. The coffee brewers go through reverse osmosis which does not solve the problem, but the temperature has been raised above the minimum temperature required by the state. Herweck noted that SWSS indicates that with the heavy rains this summer they have seen an increase in bacteria. There are solutions such a chlorinating the well and UV filtration. They are continuing to explore the problem and are willing to do what the state requires since the well is classified as a Public Water Supply.

6. Covid 19-status report

Fantasia reported from 7/1-10/6/21 there were 25 new covid cases with 4 new ones this week. There is nothing really worrisome and the school seems ok. During the same period Concord had 134 cases.

7. Mask Mandate

Per our original plan, the BOH revisited the mask mandate at this meeting. Covid Task Force member Barry said that we implemented the mandate at a good time and the numbers are dropping in Massachusetts. Delta is extraordinarily contagious, and it can be hard on even healthy individuals. Experts predict a drop off after Thanksgiving. Barry notes that now that it is fall people will go back to work and we might expect more infection, the question is what is likely in the next month. Mariano asked Jack Huntress about the school. Huntress said that at this point the school is just following guidance from the State which has been extended through November 1. The feared September challenge has not materialized. They are not getting definition at the State or National level. There is currently nothing for the School Committee to decide but at some point, it may be in their hands. Galligan said we have the flu season coming on top of Covid so we may have other respiratory disease to worry about. Galligan sees the long game as air purification but until town building have improved air purification we should continue with masks. Model said that generally the Select Board will follow recommendations of the BOH; technically Town Hall and Police are employed by the Select Board, and the Select Board is in favor of continuing the mask mandate. They are proud of vaccination rates, 97-99% at town hall. The largest employer is the school which does have a mask mandate. Barry asked Fantasia about the experience at town hall--Fantasia said it's not easy wearing a mask all day but it is necessary since most employees are working close to someone else. Kris and Fantasia try to alternate their time in the office. Model said that in his business they do weekly testing and suggested that we could also make testing/home testing kits available. Regular testing in the building would show it to be safe. Barry said we could discuss testing at a future point but in her experience, Antigen COVID testing is considered to be somewhat unreliable. It was suggested that we should look at all things that qualify for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding--filtration is extremely expensive particularly for the school which has 100 employees and 600 kids.

Barry said HEPA filters are not too bad and could reduce exposure, but we need town-wide parity. Galligan thinks UVC could be an effective alternative and there are town volunteers who are familiar with the design and procurement of systems. Erickson moved to continue the mask mandate, revisiting it in November, Collins seconded it and it was approved unanimously.

8. Benfield Update

Mariano formed a work group for conditions to permit and approvals that we voted in. They got materials Wednesday and met on Thursday. It wasn't what was expected, and the group is waiting for more input from NOAH. Fantasia has consolidated the workgroup's information requests. NOAH's group will be working on that, and they are looking to finalize their input. Beaudry has proposed to split off the permit approval conditions and move ahead with construction. Beaudry submitted a letter to the board, and we are considering that separation. Frado noted that Beaudry is proposing getting the leach field installed. Disposal is designed and approved by ConsCom--hopefully everything comes together but there would be no discharge until everything is done to the satisfaction of the BOH. Beaudry said he could work on finalizing that narrative as the field is being built, and they are still earnestly moving forward to get more information to the board. Galligan clarified that it is not just treatment documentation but the full package, including escrow and operations and maintenance documents. Carlos Quintal is taking the lead on the pre-treatment system documentation. Carlos has asked if he could consult with Frado to ensure he is going in the right direction. Fantasia and Mariano felt this should be done via a workgroup meeting. Fantasia put together a summary of the workgroup which she sent to the board yesterday it contains some new wording, and she assumes she can get it to Beaudry tomorrow. Frado asked if Beaudry has spoken with installers about their availability, as Linda has given conditional approval of the plan and Rob verified the notes have been corrected.

9. Garrison Place

Fantasia reports that Garrison Place is fully occupied and that all units have been sold. The owner is requesting a cert of compliance on the septic system. The escrow was fully funded last March, the O&M manual has been prepared, and the testing plan for FAST system is done. Fantasia is asking certification of compliance tonight. Partial certificates have been released as the units were sold. Frado said that everything has been done and signed off on so that part of the permit is complete. Total nitrogen should be tested if the system is in a nitrogen sensitive area--which Garrison Place is not, but it is >2000gal/day and has public water so that triggers nitrogen testing.

Joey Lapointe and Debbie Trumbull (SWSS) commented that total nitrogen is tested every 3 years at the test well. Trumbull said the effluent is sampled quarterly for BOD, TSS and pH. Per the I/A/General Use Approval, testing of total nitrogen in the effluent is not required.

Mariano has asked Fantasia in the past and she indicated that most of Carlisle is nitrogen sensitive. Fantasia said Title 5 can be interpreted in several ways and said the FAST system was approved assuming testing for nitrogen, but nitrogen has not been tested. Debbie Trumbull said that the system is not designed to take care of nitrogen specifically. Robert Lille--effluent goes through the FAST system to the tank without reentering the FAST system so currently there is no way to remove the nitrogen. There is nitrogen reduction in the disposal field. BOD and TCSs has remained in compliance but total nitrogen will remain as is. Pretreatment is to deal with BOD and TSS, not nitrogen. Trumbull asks what happens if the BOH wants something different. Mariano we are looking at this from a town wide view and we had assumed that FAST reduced nitrogen, but we need to separate that from the Certificate of Compliance. Galligan notes that Trumbull brings up good points so one thing that Galligan would like to suggest is testing total nitrogen on quarterly basis. It would be good to have a history of system performance should there ever be elevated nitrogen levels detected in the wells. Galligan suggests testing for it, but not making it a regulatory test. LaPointe says it has been, transferred over to the trustees and he doesn't want to volunteer to do extra testing, but he could ask the trustees. Phil Herman for the trustees said they need to get a Certificate of Compliance, if additional testing is needed at this point, then Brendon should do testing. Herman commented that going forward, additional testing might make sense if it were not cost prohibitive. Trumbull estimated that total nitrogen quarterly testing would be about \$404/year. Herman thinks that is reasonable but can't speak for trustees. Ayres and Boucher, trustees, agreed that quarterly testing could be considered with the understanding there is no regulatory standard requirement, and the data would be for historical purposes as an indicator of performance. Galligan moved to issue the certificate of compliance for Garrison Place, Barry seconded, approved unanimously.

10. Glass Grinder

The Transfer Station Task Force reported that glass is no longer being recycled and now goes to landfill. The town is considering purchasing a glass grinding machine and grinding it to a safe size to make it available for use by town residents for construction. Noise and airborne dust during grinding are concerns. Collins noted that if there is no demand for product (ground glass), the expense and energy input are not worthwhile. Other towns have mixed it with road sand, but there were complaints from residents about the residue. Since there didn't seem to be an identifiable use for ground glass the BOH declined to endorse buying a glass grinder.

11. Nitrogen

Collins would like a general discussion of nitrogen in the context of bigger properties. It will be put on a future agenda.

12. Adjourn

The next meeting is October 27, 2021.

Barry moved to adjourn, Collins seconded, it was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 21:58

Respectfully submitted,

David Erickson,
Recorder