

Board of Health Minutes
Monday, July 13, 2020 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA

The Board of Health participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Call to Order: Susan Hubbard called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Members attending: Susan C. Hubbard, Dr. Susan Boreri and Amanda Donovan were in attendance.

Others in attendance: Director of Public Health; Colleen Fermon, Health Inspector, John Morris, Kate Blessington, and Gerard McDonald.

Citizens Queries: None.

Minutes: Dr. Boreri made a motion to approve the June 1, 2020 minutes with one change on page 3; change Boeri to Boreri. Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearings:

5:35 - Alice and Horacio Chin – 55 North Ridge Road – Represented by H.L. Graham Associates, Inc. – Septic System Design Variances

Gerard McDonald, P.E. presented, and a hearing was conducted to consider variances from Title 5 for a sewage disposal system plan #20-2023 designed by Gerard McDonald, P.E., dated May 8, 2020 and revised May 28, 2020 for the 2 bedroom dwelling located at 55 North Ridge Road, Ipswich, Massachusetts.

The abutters' were notified via certified mail since the design includes a reduction in setback between the leaching area and the property lines.

Mr. McDonald said it is the owner's intention to raze and rebuild a new 2 bedroom dwelling. He proposed the use of a 2,000 gallon septic tank with a pump vault, Waterloo Biofilter and Bottomless Sand Filter for the upgrade and requested the following variances:

- A reduction in the setback between the leach area and the lot lines. A 5 foot setback is provided.
- A reduction in the separation between the septic tank inverts and the estimated seasonal high groundwater (ESHGW). The septic tank inverts will be below the estimated seasonal high groundwater (ESHGW).
- To allow the use of one deep hole in the soil absorption area.

Susan Hubbard asked Colleen Fermon for her thoughts. Ms. Fermon said the owners signed an agreement to upgrade the system by March 2, 2022. There are a lot of site constraints so she recommended granting the variances as requested with the following conditions:

- A two year Operations & Maintenance contract for the Waterloo Biofilter and Bottomless Sand Filter must be submitted to the Public Health Office prior to the issuance of the Disposal System Construction Permit.
- Prior to issuance of Disposal System Construction Permit, the System Installer must certify in writing to the Designer, the Public Health Office, and the System Owner that

(s)he is a locally approved Installer and has received appropriate training for the installation of a Bottomless Sand Filter. In addition to the certification, proof of training must be submitted to the Public Health Office.

- Prior to issuance of Disposal System Construction Permit, the System Owner shall record in the chain of title for the property in the Registry of Deeds or Land Registration Office, a Notice of Alternative Disposal for the Waterloo Biofilter and Bottomless Sand Filter. The System Owner shall provide to the Public Health Office a copy of a certified Registry copy of the Deed Notice bearing the book and page/or document number.
- Prior to issuance of Disposal System Construction Permit, an Ipswich licensed installer must come to the Public Health Office prior to beginning the project to complete the application and submit a trench permit application signed by the owner and the \$50 trench permit fee.
- Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, the Public Health Office shall receive a copy of the certified sand analysis conducted on the media.
- Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, the System Installer and Designer must provide to the Public Health Office, in addition to the certifications required by Title 5, certifications in writing that the System has been constructed in compliance with the terms of the Waterloo Biofilter and Bottomless Sand Filter Approvals, Title 5, the approved design plans, and all local requirements.
- A two-bedroom deed restriction must be filed at the Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds with a recorded copy provided to the Health Office prior to the issuance of the Disposal System Construction Permit.
- The system must be installed with the Certificate of Compliance issued by March 4, 2022.

Susan Hubbard made a motion to grant the variances as requested with the conditions as enumerated by Colleen Fermon. Dr. Boreri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5:50- Kate Blessington – 30 Old England Road – Exemption from Title 5 Inspection

Kate Blessington and Gerard McDonald, P.E. were present at the meeting.

Colleen Fermon provided some background information for the Board. On February 21, 2020 the owner purchased 30 Old England Road without a Title 5 Inspection being conducted as required under 310 CMR 15.000 Title 5. Except as provided in 310 CMR 15.301(2), 15.301(3), and 15.301(4), a system shall be inspected at or within two years prior to the time of transfer of title to the facility served by the system. An inspection conducted up to three years before the time of transfer may be used if the inspection report is accompanied by system pumping records demonstrating that the system has been pumped at least once a year during that time.

In a letter dated June 18, 2020 the owner was ordered to have a Title 5 inspection within 30 days of receipt of the notice. On June 26, 2020 the owner requested a Board of Health hearing to discuss the June 18, 2020 order.

Ms. Blessington explained that her attorney advised her that a Title 5 inspection was not required since she did not plan to utilize the existing septic system. The Board understood that a new septic design was being pursued but noted that compliance with Title 5 is still required. Ms. Blessington also informed the Board that she did not intend to use the existing well that is within 100 feet of the cesspool and will have a new well installed. She is also planning on installing a new system.

Mr. Graham explained that soil testing was conducted and a tight tank will be needed to serve the new dwelling. The property is currently unoccupied.

Susan Hubbard asked Colleen Fermon for her thoughts about what should be required about abandoning the well. Colleen Fermon thought a letter from the owner confirming her plans for the well would suffice.

Dr. Boreri made a motion to waive the Title 5 inspection requirement and allow the owner to assume the system is in failure and enter into an enforceable agreement with the Board of Health to upgrade the system within 2 years of the transfer date, by February 21, 2022, since she did not intend to use the cesspool or well. Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5:55 - YMCA – 110 County Road – Represented by Chris Bevilacqua – Modification to Conditions of Approval for Pool Variances

No one attended the meeting. It was the decision of the Board to postpone the hearing.

5:55 - Director of Public Health Report:

24 Allen Lane: John Morris, Health Inspector, presented. Mr. Quigley is still noncompliant with the March 6, 2017 Board of Health order to upgrade the failed septic system at 24 Allen Lane. A Criminal Arraignment was held on July 7, 2020 and a Pre-Trial Conference was scheduled for August 25, 2020.

New England Biolabs IBC: Dr. Boreri attended an IBC meeting on July 13, 2020. There have been no changes in the labs. Three (3) labs have been removed.

Dr. Boreri said New England Biolabs Registration will reapply for September, 2020.

COVID-19 Cases and Contacts: There have been 71 COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ipswich.

Schools: Ms. Fermon provided the Board with an overview of the current guidance available for the reopening of schools. The goal of the Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE) is to promote the safe in-person return of as many students as possible in a school setting.

1. There are three (3) possibilities on the continuum of reopening.
 - *In-person learning with new safety requirements; students learn in-person (to allow as many students as possible to get back to school).*
 - *Hybrid learning; students learn in-person and remotely (where schools are unable to bring students back or in case of COVID-19 related circumstances).*
 - *Remote learning; learning takes place remotely (for students who cannot yet return to in-person learning or for all students in the event of future closures due to COVID-19).*
2. All schools need to plan for how special populations across each model will receive necessary services and accommodations.
3. Each district and school must prepare a reopening plan that addresses these three (3) possible learning models for this fall.

Further guidance on the reopening of schools will be provided by the Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE).

COVID 19 Home Testing with Action Ambulance Service, Inc.: Colleen Fermon provided an outline of the program details.

- The Medical Director of Action Ambulance provides the physicians order for testing.
- This home testing will be offered only to residents that have been deemed a close contact by an Ipswich Public Health Nurse or a CTC agent representing Ipswich.
- Results that are positive will be reported to MAVEN.

Mobile Testing Protocol:

- Nurse/CTC will ask if the close contact is able to get to a testing site. This home testing will be offered only to a close contact that is not able to get to a testing site (reasons could include can't drive, no transportation, homebound, childcare issues, etc.). Please note Ipswich CVS provides a drive-through testing option.
- If the close contact says there is a problem getting to a testing site, share the home testing resource. If the contact is interested, tell them you will reach out to Action Ambulance to start the process and that a representative from Action Ambulance will call to schedule the testing at home.
- The nurse/CTC then calls Mike Woronka to say that home testing is needed. Mike Woronka will collect pertinent information (name, phone, address and DOB) about the close contact from the nurse/CTC and then will handle the scheduling.

Mosquito Season Update: The Ipswich Public School's Integrated Ipswich Pest Management Plan (IPM) will need to be updated and sent to North East Mass Mosquito Control (NEMMC). Once updated, school grounds can be sprayed in the summer before school starts. The product is effective for 3 months.

MassSupport – Crisis Counseling: As part of its efforts to support the behavioral health needs of Massachusetts residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the availability of a new crisis counseling assistance program. The new program, MassSupport, is funded through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made available through the federal disaster declaration. Riverside Community Care is providing the crisis counseling under contract with the Department of Mental Health.

Riverside Trauma Center will deploy its trauma response and crisis intervention expertise in a statewide initiative to bring behavioral health resources, information, and referrals directly to individuals and communities. To reach MassSupport, anyone in the state can call to be connected with local support. Counseling is available in English and Spanish.

At the outset of the program, MassSupport will both support the Mass 2-1-1 call center and will deploy outreach counselors and clinicians to provide Psychological First Aid in the form of basic education and counseling around issues related to the pandemic, and assess high-risk individuals for mental health referrals. Future expansions include the provision of more crisis counseling for the lasting effects of the pandemic, community education on coping with ongoing stress and building emotional resilience, and assistance for people applying for services to relieve crisis-related burdens.

Next Board Meetings: The next meetings of the Board of Health were scheduled for August 3, 2020, September 14, 2020, and October 5, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Adjourn: Amanda Donovan made the motion to adjourn at 6:03PM. Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Documents used at the July 13, 2020 Board of Health meeting:

- June 1, 2020 Minutes.
- Sewage Disposal System Plan for 55 North Ridge Road.
- Soil Testing Application for 30 Old England Road submitted by H.L. Graham Associates, Inc.
- Soil Testing Plan for 30 Old England Road submitted by H.L. Graham Associates, Inc. dated June 10, 2020.
- June 18, 2020 letter from Colleen Fermon regarding 30 Old England Road.

Susan C. Hubbard, Chairperson

Dr. Susan Boreri, Board Member

Amanda Donovan, Board Member