

Town of Topsfield  
Topsfield Board of Health  
Meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2007 ~ 7:30 P.M.  
Public Library Meeting Room

Present: William Hunt, Chairman; Michael Waltermire, Sheryl Knutsen, Clerk; Deborah L. Colbert

Not Present: Vincent Guerra

Also Present: John Coulon, R.S.,C.H.O., Health Agent; Jim Scanlon – 11 Gail St., Debbie Little – 11 Gail St., Rick Little – 11 Gail St., Dick Gandt – 31 Timber – Selectman, Alex DeBaggis – 25 Brookside Rd.

Public Information:

Agenda

Abbreviations used:

BOH – Board of Health

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by Chairman Hunt

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **11 Gail St – Little**

Jim Scanlon is here on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Little

There is an existing cesspool which is currently in failure.

Requesting 4 variances;

2 local 1 R1-3 setback, 2 propose 550 sq. ft. providing 15 ft. c liner  
2 from Title V

Motion from M. Waltermire: grant

Grant local waiver 200 to 110 gbp pd,  
550 sq. feet, and

Local upgrade 5 feet to 3 feet separation to high ground water.

Seconded by D. Colbert. Passed unanimously.

Go to Cons Com

#### **25 Brookside Rd. – DeBaggis**

The property owner, Mr. DeBaggis, requested a Title V inspection of his septic system in anticipation of selling the property.

Mr. DeBaggis requests that the Board approve an alternative method to determine seasonal high ground water. Mr DeBaggis does not want to wait until next year and does not want to dig any unnecessary holes.

Soil tests were conducted by soil evaluator, Brian Farmer.

A former inspection revealed that the Distribution Box is corroded and needs to be replaced, but there needs to be further evaluation by the local approving authority. The initial septic system installation was in 1977. At the time, a test pit was dug 10 feet deep, and no high ground water was observed. The Title V inspector wants the BOH to weigh in on an alternative method of determining high ground water based on tests done on other properties in the area, as well as USGS maps.

The alternative method of determining high ground water was questioned by the Board.

The board recommends that the Health Agent confer with DEP and request that they advise us. Simultaneously, the homeowner will get back to the soil evaluator and request that more detailed information about his methods be given to the Health Agent.

Motion research and revisit at next meeting (Mike W.)

#### **48-54 Main St.**

Gordon Rogers of Hayes Engineering  
Request for variance to the local Massachusetts Sanitary Code Title 5

310 CMR15:405(1)d Title 5  
Reduction in separation between the SAS and high groundwater  
Required 5.0 feet, Proficed 4.5 feet

Town of Topsfield Rules and Regulations  
Leach field design flow less than 200 gal/bedroom/day Section 8(a)  
Required 200 gpd/br; Provided 100 gpd/br.

Colbert motion to grant local upgrade approvals as written in a letter dated September 27, 2007, on condition that Health Agent reviews and approves plan.

Second Mike Waltermire  
Passed unanimously

Waltermire motion wave Cub Scout fees  
Second Colbert  
Passed unanimously

30 Woodside Drive extension of validity of septic plan  
Agent recommends  
Based on this, Colbert motion, Waltermire second, passed unanimously

Agent's report regarding Topsfield Fair  
23% increase in permitted food vendors  
131 establishment food vendors total  
Hired only 1 consulting inspector – down from 3 for the 2006 Fair  
At previous Fairs, inspections of food vendors began when the Fair opened. At the 2007 Fair, several changes made reduction in consulting inspectors possible. These changes included assigning numbers indicating a level of risk to each vendor and inspecting as many food vendors as possible prior to the opening of the Fair, beginning the Tuesday prior to the opening of the Fair at 4pm on Friday. By my records, this resulted in approximately 94% of the food vendors having been inspected prior to the opening. All of the higher risk booths had been inspected. We will never have 100% inspected prior to the Fair because some of the vendors do not open preview night per their contract.  
Closed 1 food vendor booth for repeated violations  
Responsibilities included proper disposal of wastewater from food vendors and from residential trailers, as well as proper disposal of trash from residential trailers, and proper care of animals in petting zoo

Rest of agenda tabled until October 25 meeting  
Adjourned 9:35pm

*Approved as written at the January 24, 2008 Board of Health Meeting.*