TOPSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2012 ~ 7:30 pm
Town Hall, 8 West Common

With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm
Board of Health Members present: William Hunt, Chair; Sheryl Knutsen; Gerry Topping
Not Present: Dr. Vincent Guerra ; Wade Goldman
Also present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations used
BOH Board of Health
GPD Gallons Per Day

Public Information
Agenda

APPOINTMENTS
Vote: 41 Cross Street – Reduce Mandated Septic Design Flow
Present: Greg Hockmuth, Hancock Engineer; Chris Nash, Homeowner
The Health Agent recommended that the Board approve the request retroactively citing the system is working properly and was approved by a (previous) Board of Health Agent but was not recorded properly as a variance. The file had not included a signed Certificate of Compliance including a signature from a Topsfield licensed installer.
There is an approved plan with the variance dated 2005.
Mr. Coulon provided the Board with a memorandum outlining the history of the property, dated March 22, 2012.
The variance is for an existing system designed for 110 GPD for which a variance was not applied for, discussed, or approved at a previous Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Topping moved approve variance request from 200 GPD to 110 GDP as depicted on the plan for 41 Cross Street dated 2.21.12. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Dick Gandt, Arrived 7:57 pm

Vote: 47 North Street – Design Flow Reduction
Present: Gerard MacDonald, Engineer
This is a repair of an existing home; no reduction in bedrooms.
Mr. Topping moved the BOH grant variance requested from 200 GPD to 110 GPD for 47 North Street. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote : 20 Andrews Street – Extension of percolation test data
Mr. Coulon noted that this was not on the agenda. He reported there are no changes to the property since the test date of September 7, 2007. The BOH granted a two-year extension in 2009; this expired in September 2011.
Mr. Topping moved to extend the perc test data originally done September 7, 2007 until September 7, 2013 for 20 Andrews Street. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 15 Kinsman Lane – Multiple Variances Requested
Present: Jon Whyman, Installer and Sean Magnus, Homeowner;
The Health Agent delivered a letter of denial of the design plan as submitted.
This was the first time this letter was reviewed by the BOH, homeowner, and installer.
There was a lengthy discussion of the reasons for denial.

Mr. Topping moved subject to compliance with the BOH letter dated March 22, 2012 that the BOH approve variances as listed for 15 Kinsman Lane on the plan dated April 18, 2011. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 371 Boston Street: Request for a Two Year Extension Percolation Test Data Validity (April 30, 2008)
Present: John Morin, Neve-Morin Group
The Health Agent reported there are no changes to the property or disturbance of the percolation test area and recommended approval.
Mr. Topping moved to extend perc test data for 371 Boston Street to April 30, 2014. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 207 Boston Street: Installation of a Gray Water Tight Tank (in front of Coolidge Hall)
The Health Agent explained the gray water tank is to be used during the Fair for vendors in front of Coolidge Hall against the wall that cannot get out to empty their gray water.
The Fair has a plan to replace the asphalt and they are proposing installing the tight tank before paving.
This requires both DEP/ BOH approval. The Health Agent supported the plan as proposed.
This was held for the April meeting as there was no Fairgrounds representative present.

Vote: 9 Howlett Street: Setback reduction; Design flow reduction
Present: Sue and Ken Turner, homeowners and Chuck Johnson, Engineer, C.G. Johnson Engineering, Inc.
This is a repair of an existing system.
The Board previously approved a mounded system in 2009. The new plan before the Board was a redesigned drip dispersal system. The system measures 5'W x 20'L x 3.5'H. If the electrical power is down, the storage is comparable to a four-bedroom Title V system.
The consensus of the Board was to support the variances; this will be on the agenda for the April 26, 2012 meeting.

Health Agent's Report
Report on Pandemic Preparedness Training Seminar
Mr. Coulon received his Certification of Center for Domestic Preparedness from FEMA.
He reported on the seminar saying it was beneficial. He trained with other people from Massachusetts that potentially he would work with during an emergency,

Emergency Preparedness/ Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
There are two more Tri Town Coalition open gym nights at Masco Field House scheduled. MRC volunteers will provide medical coverage.

The BOH considered if supporting a community showing of the movie "Contagion" would be beneficial. Although this is a fictional story about an airborne virus, the Board agreed the film brings public awareness to potential medical crisis. Mr. Coulon said that he meets regularly with the Public Health Director of Middleton. He will suggest about showing the movie as a Tri Town effort with Boxford. This will be on the April agenda as an organized discussion.

New Business
Minutes
Vote: January, February,
*Mr. Topping moved to approve the BOH meeting minutes of **January 26, 2012** as amended. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

The February minutes were held; no action was taken

Discussion: Illegal application of Pesticides/ Herbicides (Response to complaint)
The Board was provided with a copy of written notes from a resident who witnessed a chemical lawn application drift onto a public way. There is a concern that this would be tracked into homes, exposing pets and small children to hazardous concentrations of harmful pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals used by landscapers.
Mr. Coulon said this can be caused by an aggressive application of pellets that can drift onto sidewalks.
If Mr. Coulon witnesses the applications, he can determine if this is a violation and if enforcement is required.
He said one approach to this concern is to educate the public via newspaper, town cable, town website, kiosk, etc. He would attempt to identify those companies from the Tri Town area and issue a letter stating that it is the responsibility of the owner/ company that chemicals used stay on the property to which they are applied.

Next Wednesday, March 28, 2012 the Northeast Harvest Agricultural Conference; Health Agent Coulon is the first speaker and will present on "How to Become a Certified Kitchen" .

Old Business
Discussion: review of existing Topsfield Septic Regulations
Mr. Topping referenced Topsfield Board of Health Regulation Review dated December 8, 2011/ Updated 3.22.12
He reviewed and recommended the 20-minute perc rate be retained.
The Storm Water Regulations are on the Planning Board agenda. Currently they are under the Board of Health's Jurisdiction.
Mr. Gandt agreed to email the BOH, the Storm Water Regulations as approved by the Planning Board

Financials
The Board reviewed and signed the Bill Warrant

Communications
Letter from the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Community Sanitation Program. The inspection report of the jail cell in the Topsfield Police Department was included for general information and as an example of the type of work that will be relegated to Local BOHs if the state continues to eliminates jobs and programs.

Memorandum from Kopelman and Paige regarding Statewide Mutual Aid Programs was briefly reviewed.

Executive Session (ES)
Mr. Topping moved to enter into ES at 10:06 pm ES according to MGL Chapter 39, section 23A and 23B (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and to adjourn directly from Executive Session. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley