

Town of Topsfield
Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, May 24, 2007 ~ 7:30 P.M.
Public Library Meeting Room

Present: William Hunt, Chairman; Sheryl Knutsen, Clerk; Deborah L. Colbert (8:05 pm); Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Also Present: John Coulon, R.S.,C.H.O., Health Agent; Richard Gandt, Selectman
Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Public Information:
Agenda

Abbreviations used:
BOH – Board of Health

7:44 pm – Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order.
Mr. Coulon gave a brief overview of the agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

Vote – Extension of soil testing season

156 River Road –Single family /upgrade of system

Mr. Coulon stated that the soil is saturated due to the high ground water. He is in support of BOH consider extension to June 28th

120 High Street – New construction.

Mr. Coulon stated that he has returned to this location to perform several tests, but the soil is saturated. He is in support of an extension to June 28, 2007.

It was noted that April was the 5th wettest April in 40 years.

Mr. Waltermire made a motion based upon town well records, and pursuant of Section 14 of the local septic regulations that the soil testing season is extended to the next meeting of the BOH scheduled for June 28th.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

78 South Main Street

Dan Ottenheimer, Engineer from Mill River Consulting addressed the Board regarding the Bloxham residence at 78 South Main Street. He reviewed the plans for an upgrade to the system to replace composing toilet to a holding tank. He cited the high water table and clay soil for the necessity for a waste water holding tank.

The letter is a part of these minutes.

It was noted that approval from the Conservation Commission is necessary

Mr. Waltermire made a motion to approve the plan as presented.

After a brief discussion it was determined that different wording of the motion was necessary and Mr. Waltermire's motion was rescinded.

Mr. Hunt made a motion to accept Mill River Consulting Plan dated March 7, 2007, sheet 1/1 to install a waste water system. Ms. Knutsen seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

4 North Common Street

A brief overview of the current system at 4 North Commons Street was presented by Dan Ottenheimer of Mill River Consulting. He told the Board that the current 500 gallon septic tank is not adequate for the property.

The proposed system has a primary septic tank, a grease tank, a waterloo Biofilter pretreatment unit and pressure distribution leach field. The ground water elevation was found 64 inches below ground surface. Membranes divert the water from migrating toward the building.

It was the consensus of the Board that this is a good plan for the limited space.

A letter dated May 24, 2007 from abutters Orlando and Elizabeth Lopez of 93 Main Street was recognized by the Board.

This letter is a part of the minutes.

Mr. Hunt read the letter from Mr. Lopez who was present, opposing a variance to 310 CMR 13, 212 (b) and the request for upgrade. He cited that the proposed system will increase the volume to the abutter's systems. He requested that the calculations of diffusion of soil be done.

In response Mr. Martino responded that waste water will be dispersed, possibly reducing the load on private systems, adding that problems have not been present and are not expected to be found.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to grant the waiver and variance as outlined in Mill River Consulting letter dated May 11, 2007 to the abutters of 4 North Commons.

Mr. Waltermire seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Request for Variances

Michele Sosenko of 45 Winsor Lane was present to request a variance from Title V of the Massachusetts Environmental Code from 5 to 4 feet due to site constraints.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to approve ground water separation from 5 to 4 subject to any changes by the Health Agent. Ms. Knutsen seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alan Berry – CP Berry Construction (No action required of the Board)

Mr. Berry requested to give the Board an update of results and proposed septic design plans for possible (over 55) housing development of 12 Boston Street/ Page Farm.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the information received from Mr. Berry.

The Board talked about a public hearing to change the Town's regulations to include elderly housing, which typically uses less water (150 gallons per day). Current regulations are 200 gallons per day.

It was also noted that currently there are no flow rate changes for repairs or new construction in the Town of Topsfield.

Mr. Coulon suggested that the Board consider that this project is going to continue to be developed by CP Berry construction and this discussion can continue at future board meetings with additional data that will become available.

Mosquito Control Management Plan - Walter Montgomery

Mr. Montgomery was present to discuss the Draft Management Plan, including a surveillance program of 3 site traps; Essex Co-op, the Cemetery, and a yet to be determined site.

Mr. Montgomery identified the catch basin treatment is the use of bacteria, toxic only to mosquitoes.

With a budget of \$38,000, he told the board that he recommends all catch basins be treated. The cost is \$2 per catch basin with a residual of 30 days; to test the basin is approximately \$15.

The Board went on to talk about the Management Plan draft and understanding the plan. They discussed changing the draft to include locating the catch basins with the assistance of the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Colbert stated that she supports data being collected and presented to the Board before treatment begins and that educational material is made available to residents, possibly through the schools.

Mr. Coulon suggested various resources for education material regarding mosquito control.

Discussion followed regarding the immediate activation of the plan.

It was the consensus of the majority of the Board that the catch basins be treated immediately.

Ms. Knutsen made a motion to go forward with the Mosquito Management Plan as presented. Mr. Guerra seconded.

Mr. Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: Deborah L. Colbert

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Coulon reminded the Board that an intern from Tufts is available to the Town for the summer and the intern can work with mosquito control.

Emergency Planning Committee

Ms. Knutsen made a motion to appoint the Health Agent and board members to represent the Town of Topsfield BOH on the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mr. Waltermire seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board authorized that any available board member to sign payroll. Mr. Guerra agreed to be the primary person responsible for signing weekly payroll.

Food Permit Fee Waiver

Mr. Coulon identified three requests for permit fee waivers; each prepare and dispense food.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to approve the following permit fee waivers:

Merrimack Pony Club - May 27th / permit issued.

Annual North Shore Pan Mass Challenge for Kids - May 19th / permit issued

Greyhound Placement Services (June 16-17) and September 8-9

Ms. Knutsen seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

10:48 pm - *Mr. Hunt made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and litigation and to return to open session for the purpose of adjourning. Ms. Knudsen seconded.*

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Sheryl Knutsen; Deborah L. Colbert; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

11:19 PM – The Board returned to open session.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

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