

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, March 28, 2013 ~ 7:30 pm
Town Hall, 8 West Common

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Topsfield Board of Health, Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room.

With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Board of Health Members present: Chair William Hunt, Esq.; Vice Chair Sheryl Knutsen, RN; Wade Goldman, P.E.; Vincent Guerra MD; Gerald Topping, P.E.

Also present: John Coulon R.S., Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations

BOH Board of Health

RS Registered Sanitarian

PE Professional Engineer

Public Information

Agenda

I. APPOINTMENTS

- **VOTE:** 228 Perkins Row- reduction of setback of leach field from building foundation from 20 feet to 14 feet

Present: Charles Johnson, P.E., C G Johnson Engineering

This system is for an existing three-bedroom home with an on site wastewater treatment dispersal system that is failing.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the options for the site. The homeowners have decided to pursue a 2000-gallon tank, Waterloo Biofilter Treatment Unit with Pressure Distribution Leach Field. The wetland on the property is in the process of being certified but has not been filed to date.

Vote: Mr. Goldman moved to approve the variance request for local upgrade approval for 228 Perkins Row. Mr. Topping seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- **VOTE:** 116 Boston Street - request to extend percolation data validity for 116 Boston Street

Present: Kerry Cheever, homeowner

The Health Agent confirmed there have been no changes to the property at 116 Boston Street and recommended approval.

Vote: Mr. Topping moved to extend the percolation data validity for 116 Boston Street through to September 8, 2015. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried four to one with Mr. Hunt abstaining.

- **VOTE:** 40 Summer Street- reduction of setback from soil absorption system to cellar wall house foundation from 20 feet to 14 feet; use of sieve analysis in lieu of percolation test; reduction of separation between soil absorption system and high ground water from high groundwater from 4 feet to 3 feet

Present: Isaac Rowe, RS, Mill River Consulting

The plan is for an upgrade to an existing four-bedroom home. The property has a severe slope with a 16 foot drop which is limiting the options. The proposed plan is a 1500-gallon septic tank with a pressure pumped system.

Vote: Mr. Topping moved to approve the variance requests for 40 Summer Street. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

II. *HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT*

- General Report of Activities

Mr. Coulon reported on the MRC meeting saying that local, regional, state, and national cuts have not been determined, but will be made effective July 1, 2013. He reviewed that Region 3 received \$14,000 last year and it is unknown how the cuts will affect this amount. Mr. Coulon is seeking alternate sources of funding e.g., the Department of Environmental Protection has mini grants available with competitive application process.

The National Leadership Conference is in June; Mr. Coulon is attending

The Health Agent had the unanimous consensus of the Board regarding request that the Selectmen reappoint Gerald Topping to the Board of Health.

Mr. Coulon will spend Tuesday with the DPW regarding sanitation inspections of pools, camps, beaches, beavers, jail, migrant labor camp (apple pickers) state community inspectors in Topsfield

Update Topsfield Emergency Preparedness and TRMRC

- The CDC feedback has not been received yet from the January 9, 2013 audit. Once received, the BOH has 30 days to respond.

Monthly Case Review

- The Board was instructed to take the State Ethics Test on line by April 5th and was provided the necessary information.
- 78A Alderbrook Drive is having septic replaced - design approved. Dave Clark called saying issues met with installers; stump dump found on site causing different testing results in same field

III. *NEW BUSINESS*

- **VOTE:** Minutes - February

Vote; Mr. Topping moved to approve the BOH meeting minutes of February 28, 2013 as amended. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried unanimously with Mr. Hunt abstaining.

- **DISCUSSION:** Medical Marijuana- Update

Mr. Coulon attended a Mass Health Association sponsored meeting regarding the new medical marijuana approval. The Department of Public Health has been tasked with writing the regulations for the dispensing of medical marijuana. The Attorney General ruled that town/cities could not exclude medical marijuana dispensing sites from the community but that zoning can be established.

The Department of Public Health will be putting out a draft of the regulations for public comment in the next few weeks.

- **DISCUSSION:** Geosphere: Private Well Database and Water Quality Assessment Study

Mr. Coulon explained there are well water regulations in Topsfield and although the Town has these mapped, it is not known if the well owners are testing the water, how the testing is done, or what the report means. This assessment study provides a service in interpretations of well water reports. He cited high levels of sodium in local communities, which can be used as a base line.

Although 85% of residents are on public water, more people may look into private wells in the future.

The Topsfield regulation regarding wells was discussed.

It was questioned if the Town would be interested in establishing baselines for certain concerns in this area i.e. salt arsenic, radon, coliform. On behalf of the Town, those residents with wells would be contacted and offered testing at reduced or no cost depending on the funding the town gets. This is not a mandate.

The BOH reviewed that the Child Protection Act of Massachusetts requires all licensed childcare facilities have a pest control plan. The EPA has a list of safe pesticides for properties used by children. E.g. daycare, parks, schools, town sponsored activities. This includes spraying for mosquitoes.

The Health Agent has applied for a \$500 grant to pay a contractor to contact each facility to achieve compliance.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- **DISCUSSION:** Town Meeting Warrant Article Regarding Board of Health Revolving Account

Mr. Coulon reported that he attended the Finance Committee Budget meeting and inquired about making an amendment to the budget to include a revolving account for the BOH. He cited the deficiency of services directly related to limitation of funds. He informed the Finance Committee that 21% of Topsfield's population is considered elderly and vaccinations are a priority. The Finance Committee confirmed that amendments could be made and are first submitted to the Selectmen. If approved, the amendment is brought before the Finance Committee for consideration.

V. FINANCIALS

- Review and **SIGN** Bill Warrant

The Board signed the bill warrants.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

The BOH discussed the finalizing of the promulgation of the changes to the Town Supplemental Regulations to Title V.

The next BOH meeting is April 25, 2013

VOTE: Mr. Topping moved to adjourn 10:30 pm and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley