

TOWN OF TOPSFIELD
Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, March 27, 2008
Topsfield Library Meeting Room

7:39PM – With a quorum present and the absence of the Chair, Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order.
Present: Sheryl Knutsen; Michael Waltermire; Vincent Guerra; Deborah Colbert
Also Present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary
Absent: William Hunt, Chair

Abbreviations used:
TBOH- Topsfield Board of Health

Public information:
Agenda

APPOINTMENTS

VOTE: Commercial Property located at 17 & 19 Main Street – local upgrade approval (Currently the Bike Shop & New Meadows) Ara Aftandilian / Greg Hochmuth - Neve Morin; Waiver requests to five set back regulations.

Mr. Aftandilian identified that the building at 19 Main Street will remain and construction will take place around the New Meadow Market and that 17 Main Street will be demolished; Two or three stores are planned with two non public restrooms.

Mr. Hochmuth presented the plan to the TBOH stating that the proposed design flow is for 500 gallons and has been designed for current flow which is 510 Gallons per day based on two retail stores and a two bedroom apartment; change to one retail and office space (no apartment).

The TBOH identified that this is not being considered new construction.

Currently there are two failed cesspools to a (RH20) chamber system on the lots which will be replaced but they can not design the new system within the set back regulations.

Hochmuth noted that there are no impervious barriers proposed.

Mill River Consulting/ Dan Ottenheimer did the soil testing for the previous owner and previous Health Agent.

Mr. Coulon stated he has reviewed the data and soils and structures and he does not see any problem with granting the waiver as requested.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to grant the local upgrade as submitted. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

63 Parsonage Lane - Bobbie Cody & Charles Cody

Mr. Coulon reviewed that the home at 63 Parsonage Lane is for sale and that the owners had a Title V inspection on September 9, 2006 which passed. He went on to review the Title V requirement including that the tank is to be pumped consecutively for three years.

He stated that the tank was pumped in August 2006 but they missed the pumping in 2007.

He went on to explain that the Cody's are petitioning the TBOH to allow a pumping of the tank now, to count toward the 2007 annual pump and that they will pump again in 2008.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to allow for a pumping of the septic tank within the next thirty days to count as the 2007 pumping. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernie Rolsma – 1 Washington Street - Fluoride in Public Water

Mr. Rolsma requested that the TBOH support that fluoride is not added to the water system and present it at the Town Meeting for a vote of the town.

Mr. Rolsma went on to talk in length to the TBOH about research he has done regarding the addition to fluoride to the water.

He appealed to the TBOH to not add fluoride noting medical research of serious medical problems as it crosses the blood / brain barrier. He cited numerous medical issues related to fluoride.

The TBOH was provided data in their packets.

He stressed that many countries and states are now banning fluoride and suggested that profits increase the use.

Mr. Rolsma talked to the TBOH about the history and problems with the use of fluoride to health and said that he is concerned with the levels of fluoride in Topsfield's water.

Discussion followed.

HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

Update on Statewide Regionalization of Public Health

Mr. Coulon reported that he attended a state wide meeting on February 29th of public health employees.

He said that these meetings have been ongoing for the past two years and will continue annually with a final report in 2010 regarding the best way for Massachusetts to deliver public health services. He noting that Massachusetts is the only state who handles public services independently by town (351) compared to other states that have districts; this has proven to be a better way of handling public health services.

Discussion followed.

Status of Topsfield Beaver Mitigation Effort

The TBOH office received application for emergency beaver trapping permits.

He identified nine areas of beaver activity endangering public health/ wells; the Superintendents of the Highway and Water Departments are involved.

Trapping will continue to April 15th and recommendation for future beaver control will be written for next year.

He went on to say those areas not affecting public ways & public well fields but are increasing mosquito breeding will be considered.

The water dept and highway dept are splitting the cost.

Status of local Medical Reserve Corps

Mr. Coulon recommended the web site for the Medical Reserve Corp to find local people to serve when needed.

He said that there are discussions regarding Topsfield being the host town.

He identified that he has received a resume for a director's position.

Plan for Topsfield EXPO Board of Health Presentation

The expo is this Saturday, 3/29 from 10AM – 2PM at the Proctor School.

The TBOH were invited to participate.

The TBOH has a 6 foot table; various posters will be displayed, health information will be distributed, and food safety addressed by video.

Review of Topsfield Communicable Disease Data

The TBOH was referred to data in their packets. This is a ten year tally from 1998-2007.

A short discussion of understanding followed.

The Health Agent commented that actual numbers are under reported.

Status of Soil Test Data for New Meadows Golf Course

Update: Soil testing was done for the proposed over 55 living units; soil testing was incomplete due to the high water; perc testing will be done at a later date.

Status of Possible Town-Wide Use of “Inspectional Services Specific” Computer Program

Mr. Coulon reported that once a month the safety committee meets.

A software representative gave a presentation of programs to assist assessors’ data base, GIS, and others to allow each dept to look at the same images and assist in permitting and mail merge, abutters, etc.

Review the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District Best

The TBOH will review this information and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

A public information forum will be held May 1, 2008.

An informational pamphlet regarding mosquito management will be available at Town Meeting.

Camp Application

Mr. Coulon showed the TBOH a public flyer of an international karate studio in town with a schedule of martial arts courses over a week with lunch being served and that this is a camp and needs to fill out the application and be permitted. Mr. Coulon has printed the state regulations for the owner. It was noted that according to the advertising this qualifies as a sports camp, and a day camp.

OLD BUSINESS

VOTE: Review and approve January & February Meeting Minutes

Mr. Waltermire made a motion to accept the January 24th and February 28th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Question of “Tri-Town” Public Health Nurse

Mr. Coulon gave an update of the proposed shared public nurse position for the tri towns. He reviewed the options for a full time or part time position serving each community. Interviews are currently being held for the position. It is undecided how Topsfield will participate.

He explained how Topsfield can participate on a part time basis.

A lengthy discussion of understanding followed. NO action was taken.

Review Beverly Hospital Community Needs Assessment Project presented by Alec McKinney of John Snow, Inc. at the February 28th meeting.

Mr. Coulon said that the survey was mailed. He went on to review the presentation made at the February TBOH meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Use of New Emergency Preparedness Funds

Mr. Coulon gave a brief update.

CORRESPONDANCE

VOTE: Fee Waiver Request from the 6th Annual PMC for Kids – Topsfield Ride

It was noted that this request fit the guidelines of the TBOH to consider fee wavier requests.

Ms. Colbert made a motion to waive the PMC Fee as requested. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

VOTE: Fee Waiver Request from the Boy Scouts Troop 81

There was a discussion regarding the need for a permit to serve cookies and milk, noting that the cookies are brought in from the participants.

Mr. Coulon referred to a recent meeting of Mass Health Agents.

It was noted that the Topsfield Fair Grounds is following through with their commitment to enforce food permitting.

Mr. Coulon noted that the regulations give exemptions and that the Boy Scouts reception fits the guidelines as a closed affair, non hazardous foods, etc. Mr. Coulon will talk to the Troop leaders.

The TBOH tabled this for a future meeting.

Current Topsfield Fairgrounds Schedule

The TBOH received a draft schedule for their review from the Topsfield Fair Grounds. The TBOH was pleased that this is being submitted as requested.

He noted that there are new events at the fair grounds.

FINANCIALS

The TBOH reviewed and signed the Bill Warrant

The Health Agent gave the February Revenue Report – Provided to the TBOH for their review.

The Board asked to see the TBOH budget.

10:35 PM Executive Session

Ms. Knutsen made a motion to enter into ES.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10:47 PM – The TBOH returned to open session and on a motion by Mr. Guerra, it was unanimous to adjourn at 10:47 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Catherine Tinsley