

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, April 25, 2013
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, April 25, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room. With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.
Board of Health Members present: Chair William Hunt, Esq.; Vice Chair Sheryl Knutsen, RN (7:48 pm); Wade Goldman, P.E.; Vincent Guerra MD; Gerald Topping, P.E.
Also present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations

BOH Board of Health
RS Registered Sanitarian
PE Professional Engineer

Public Information

Agenda

APPOINTMENTS

VOTE: 6-8 Grove Street, Form 9A: reduction of setback of tank from building cellar wall and reduction of setback from leach field to cellar wall.

Present: Greg Bernard, RS, representing the applicants for 6 - 8 Grove Street
Soil testing was done October 2011
This is a two building lot
A total of seven bedrooms 4/3
Three cesspools
Borders Cleveland Brook - Septic approved by Conservation Commission

New system - Plan dated April 9, 2013

Two compartment septic tanks

Front building system - local upgrade approval requested to five feet/ differs from the plan showing 6 feet.
Rear building system reduction of 20 foot set back to 10 ft
Membranes are called for in the plan.
Raised system/ no wall
Proposed swale on right/left to prevent increased water onto abutter's property

VOTE: Mr. Topping moved to approve the septic system plan for 6 -8 Grove Street with variances as identified on Form 9A. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Lot 1 Newburyport Turnpike (aka 125 Boston Street) Form 9A: request to extend Percolation Test Data Validity

Present: John Morin, P.E., Neve Morin Group

The lot was created in 1993
April and May 2010 – soil testing (away from the wetlands)
No changes to the 2010 plan
1997 well installed – well remains for irrigation

Vote: Dr Guerra moved to extend the percolation test data validity through May 14, 2014. Mr. Topping seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

Presentation on Water Treatment Plant Town Meeting Article

Present: Greg Krom, Topsfield Water Department

Mr. Krom talked to the Board at length regarding the proposed water treatment plant to reduce/remove excessive Manganese in the water. This is on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for consideration.

He included details about the current system:

Flushing is done twice a year

A disinfection process was added in 2007 (oxidant)

Phosphate added before chlorination

He reviewed the options the Town considered, and the preferred solution is to upgrade the current water system as opposed to finding a new water source. The proposal is for a water treatment plant; estimated cost is \$800,000.

The Water Department is an enterprise fund, therefore if the project is approved; the rates will be increased to pay for the plant at an estimated 75% or \$400 annually for average water use per account. The Water Department would seek no/low interest loans from the state or federal government.

The feasibility study included comments that increased water tables from beaver activities may be the origin of the problem, but it is uncertain that lowering the water would reverse the problem.

Magnesia is not present in water tested from the bottom of the wells. Testing for Manganese is not mandatory, but there are associated health risks with increased levels. The Manganese must be hauled away from the plant.

HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

General Report of Activities

- Update Topsfield Emergency Preparedness and Topsfield Regional MRC Activities, saying that interviews continue for the Coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps; one candidate stands out.

There is possible grant money to purchase a "stationary" resting spot that can be strategically placed to encourage people to walk, with a destination, and a place to rest.

Food inspections:

Spring inspection for schools

Home show – inspection of eight food vendors

Training by Mass Environmental Health on mobile food trucks; this is at the Federal / State level to look closer at mobile truck food safety.

There is a national effort for sheriff departments to partner with their local Council on Aging to reach out to the elderly population through the TRIAD program. Topsfield is actively working on the Triad program.

- Monthly Case Review
Septic inspections

Mr. Coulon was activated through the ICS (Incident Command System) to facilitate counseling for those connected with the Boston Marathon bombing. He talked generally about this experience, noting the training he has received over the years prepared him and others in this emergency.

NEW BUSINESS

- **VOTE:** March Minutes

The minutes were deferred to the next meeting. No action was taken.

- **DISCUSSION:** Title V Report Validity Extension under Massachusetts Title V Regulations Section 301 sub section 1

The Board discussed the interpretation of this section to mean that if a system is pumped the first year, but not second year, the title V inspection is then void and another title V inspection is required.

The Board agreed with the interpretation and directed the Health Agent to continue status quo.

Discussion: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan for 2013
Mr. Coulon reiterated that this is not a part of the North East mosquito control. Feed back and response has been requested regarding the proposed changes.
The Board reviewed the summary sheet provided and responded that the changes are not tracked in the document and asked that this be done for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIALS

- Review and SIGN Bill Warrant
- The Board signed the warrants.

COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Mr. Topping moved to adjourn at 10:03 pm and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley