

TOPSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH  
Meeting of Thursday, MAY 24, 2012 ~ 7:30 pm  
Town Hall, 8 West Common

With a quorum present, in the absence of the Chair, Ms. Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:52 pm. Board of Health Members present: Sheryl Knutsen, Vice Chair; Wade Goldman, Gerry Topping  
Not Present: William Hunt, Chair; Dr. Vincent Guerra  
Also present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary; Selectman Dick Gandt (8:41 pm)

Abbreviations used  
BOH Board of Health

Public Information  
Agenda

### APPOINTMENTS

Vote: Holger Luther and Jim MacDougall re: Septic Regulations Review

Conservation Commissioners Holger Luther and Jim MacDougall submitted comments regarding proposed BOH Septic System Regulations Changes.

Mr. Topping provided the Board with those comments dated February 23, 2012. The Board discussed each comment.

1. The recommendation was not to delete soil information related to the Essex County Soil Conservation Survey; it is only to delete the requirement to put the soil survey information on the septic plan.  
The referenced survey is still required on the application to the BOH as (DEP) Form 11, which is part of the file for the property but would not be required on the plan.  
The BOH soil evaluator has met the requirements for DEP but is not a Soil Scientist.

#### 2. USGS Datum Facilities

Title V requirement elevations are listed from a benchmark. The benchmark does not have to be the USGS Datum; Title V allows option to choose which verifiable benchmark to use. USGS is usually used in new construction. A benchmark for repairs is a fixed point i.e. foundation.

It was the consensus of the Board that using USGS datum adds additional, unnecessary costs for homeowners and Topsfield should be consistent with Title V.

#### 3. Volume of sanitary sewage. No Discussion.

#### 4. Deep observation holes recommendation to delete section and default back to Title V.

Local regulations require two deep holes at system location, and two deep holes in the reserve area. Title V also requires same deep test holes in primary and two in the reserve area, but Title V allows when trenches are used, so that only two test holes are dug. Local regulations also require the bottom of the bed inspection by the Health Agent.  
This does not change the way the testing is done.

#### 5. Number of Perc Tests Required

Section 16 requires three percolation tests. This would be deleted and revert to Title V that required two perc tests for proposed system; one in primary area and one in reserve area.

Title V does not allow overnight soak but requires a 15 minute presoak to cause expandable soils to react and expand before testing and that soils subjected to water for 24 hours does not further saturate soils for testing.

It was noted that some states no longer require perc testing but depend on soil observation.

The title for Section 16 would change to "Percolation Tests" and include the same text "Only the maximum allowable percolation rate shall be 20 minutes per inch."

Perc tests are not done until after the deep hole observation is complete.  
The local agent on site has the authority to require more holes.  
Title V prohibits septic systems to be built in fill. The most restrictive natural layer is used as the start of the test hole.

#### 7. Leaching area requirements

Title V has not been around long enough to determine if failure has to do with design.

### HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

#### Hurricane Preparedness Training

Mr. Coulon attended Hurricane Preparedness Training at Fort Devens, sponsored by MEMA. He said the training was effective and included when to implement a plan at the local, state, and federal levels. Mr. Coulon said he appreciated the diverse group of attendees that included Public Health, Fire, Police, Emergency Management, and Municipal Administrators. National experts spoke on various topics, i.e. ocean surge, rivers, and how to access information. There will be additional training in the future.

Mr. Coulon added that although the prediction for 2012 is for fewer hurricanes due to the weather pattern, they were cautioned the storms may be increased in strength.

#### Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corps

Sent volunteers to a Newburyport Health Fair organized by a US Public Health Service intern.

#### Emergency Dispensing Site Plan Audit

Mr. Coulon reported that Monday the Department of Public Health performed the audit of the Emergency Dispensing Site Plan. Mr. Coulon said the audit went well due to the preparations of Sheryl Knutsen, functioning as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator of DPH Region 3A. There was a general discussion regarding the audit.

\*A federal (CDC) audit will be conducted January 9, 2013.

#### FDA Self Assessment and Verification Audit Training

Mr. Coulon went to a seminar for utilization (of FDA Grant funds of \$2500). Topsfield joined the FDA volunteer standards program. Some of the money will be used by the Health Agent during the Fair to increase the level of inspections for select vendors.

### NEW BUSINESS

Vote: Updating Fee Schedule

The Board tabled this at the April meeting and it was unanimous to not put it back on the table for this meeting.

Vote: April Minutes

Mr. Topping moved to approve the April 26, 2012 minutes as amended. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Best Management Practice 2012 and Vector Management Plan 2012 from Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District

The Health Agent asked the Board to review and discuss the plans as presented and to accept the plans as submitted or send back with questions, comments, etc.

Mr. Coulon noted there are 52 species of mosquitoes that have been identified in Massachusetts but only a small minority carry the two viruses of concern. Each species favors certain conditions.

Mr. Goldman moved the BOH endorse 2012 Vector Management Plan as outlined in the NEMC and Wetlands Management District and the Best Management Practice Plan in Topsfield for 2012, as amended January 2012.

Mr. Topping seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### FINANCIALS

The Board reviewed and signed the Bill Warrant.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

TBOH 5.24.12

The BOH acknowledged a letter from Susan Gannon, Middleton COA Director, thanking the TBOH for participating in the Boston North Health Fair at the Masco Field House, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Semi Annual Environmental Monitoring Report: Topsfield Sanitary Landfill

The Report was provided to the BOH for review. It was noted that this includes reports of private wells within a certain radius.

Weston and Sampson prepared the report.

Invitation to the BOH from Tri Town Council for Monday June 4, 2012 7 pm Gould Barn for the Tri-Town Council Open House.

Presby Environmental, Inc. Update on Revised Approvals

The Board reviewed information that an annual inspection of the Presby system is no longer necessary; MA DEP has eliminated this requirement for both general use and remedial use.

An executive session was determined to not be necessary and no executive session was held.

Mr. Topping moved to adjourn at 10:24 pm and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley,  
Recording Secretary