

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, July 25, 2013
Town Hall, 8 West Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

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, July 25, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room. With a quorum present, Acting Chair Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Board of Health Members present: BOH Clerk Sheryl Knutsen, RN; Vincent Guerra MD; Gerald Topping, PE; John Coulon RS, Health Agent; Richard Gandt, Selectman; Alex Brinkert RN, DPH Intern; Charles Johnson, PE Design Engineer; Susan Winslow Minutes Secretary

ABBREVIATIONS:

VNA: Visiting Nurse Association

RN: Registered Nurse

IPM: Integrated Pest Management

NEHA/AEC: National Environmental Health Association/Annual Education Conference

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection

DPH: Department of Public Health

MRC: Medical Reserve Corps

CDC: Center for Disease Control

TBOH: Topsfield Board of Health

TAR: Technical Assistance Review

MEMA: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Public Information

Agenda

Vice Chair Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. The Board agreed to conduct business until the first Appointment scheduled at 7:45 pm.

Meeting Minutes:

The May 23, 2013 and June 27, 2013 Minutes were reviewed.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the May 23, 2013 and June 27, 2013 minutes as written. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Appointment:

43 Willowdale Road: Local Upgrade Approval Request from 310CMR15.104 & 15.405 (1)(g) for Sieve Analysis in lieu of Percolation Test

Mr. Charles Johnson, PE, of CG Johnson Engineering, So. Hamilton, MA, addressed the Board regarding a 2 Acre property owned by Clayton Shepard. The septic system at that address failed a "Title V Inspection". Mr. Johnson showed drawings and gave a description of the limitations of the property. He requested that the Board accept Sieve Analysis for this property in lieu of Percolation Testing. He described the property as having 'sandy loam'. Mr. Johnson informed the Board that the proposed repair of the existing septic system will include connecting to the existing waste water line exiting the house, installing a new septic tank, a Waterloo Biofilter Treatment Unit and 20' x 58' pressure distribution leach field set 2 feet above estimated seasonal high groundwater. Mr. Topping asked if there would be inspection of the cast iron pipe exiting the house, informing the Board that cast iron piping can lose integrity

over 50 years. The existing system appears to be close to that age. Mr. Johnson replied that the pipe will be inspected for integrity.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to accept Sieve Analysis in lieu of Percolation Testing at 43 Willowdale Road in Topsfield. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

36 Alderbrook Road: Mr. Charles Johnson, PE of CG Johnson Engineering, Inc. of So. Hamilton, MA addressed the Board with two Local Upgrade Approval Requests for two options for waste water disposal systems at this address.

Mr. Johnson presented the two options that he has designed for the homeowner, Bruce Jones, to accommodate the limitations of this lot. This property sits on a steep slope, with gas and water lines (water lines not marked when installed by the town of Topsfield) in front of the home and wetlands behind the home. Currently, the home is served by two 9' deep leach pits in the front yard, and the system failed an inspection due to the water table.

Option A: includes a septic tank, Waterloo Biofilter Treatment System and 15' x 27' Pressure Distribution Leach Field set 4 feet above estimated seasonal high groundwater.

Local Upgrade Approval Requests for Option A:

- 310CMR 15.211(1) & 15.405(1)(b): Minimum horizontal separation between Leach Facility and Full Foundation of 20 feet to a request of 17 feet.
- 310CMR 15.102 & 15.405(1)(k) Minimum of two Deep Observation Holes to One Deep Observation Hole

Option B: includes a septic tank, Waterloo Biofilter Treatment Unit to 6' x 21' Bottomless Sand Filter set 4 feet above estimated seasonal high groundwater.

Local Upgrade Approval Request for Option B:

- 310CMR 15.102 & 15.405(1)(k) Minimum of two Deep Observation holes to One Deep Observation Hole.

The Board discussed the limitations presented by this lot. Mr. Johnson explained that the homeowner is still deciding which option to choose, so he is requesting Local Upgrade Approvals for both options.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to grant the Local Upgrade Requests for Option A and Option B. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Dr. Guerra commented on the high quality of the presentation from Mr. Johnson.

Health Agent Report:

Mr. Coulon gave the Board of report of his recent attendance at the NEHA/AEC meeting and training in Washington, DC.

Mosquito Update:

The Board asked Mr. Coulon about the "No Spray" signs that have been appearing in town. Mr. Coulon explained that these signs are being sold as a fund raiser for BTA/Bolt in Boxford, and are not in any way connected to Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control or the Topsfield Board of Health. Dr. Guerra questioned Mr. Coulon about any requests from Topsfield residents regarding no spray at their address. Mr. Coulon informed the Board that there have been three requests thus far. Each request is logged and an email is sent to Jack Card at the NEMMC with the homeowner's name and the address of the request. Mr. Coulon explained to the Board that the requests have come in through email, telephone, and in person. Selectman Gandt made note of a recent article in the Tri-Town Transcript that offered questionable information about the spraying process and ingredients of the spray. Mr. Coulon responded that the article included a great deal of misinformation. He explained the methods of delivery and science of the NEMMC, stating that he has done ride-alongs with the NEMMC during spraying. He described the computer system into which NEMMC programs No Spray requests. He explained that spraying is done if warranted at night in order to

target specific mosquito species because they are active at night. He noted that bees are inactive at night and the spray is formulated to be rendered harmless by the time it dissipates with no harmful residue. He estimated that dissipation time for the spray is less than 10 minutes depending on the weather conditions.

Mr. Coulon told the Board that the computer in the spray truck automatically shuts off the spray when the GPS system indicates an address with a No Spray request, and that the spray also stops automatically when the truck stops. He further explained that the driver stops the spray if a car is going by with windows open, or a resident is seen on the street or in their driveway.

Mr. Gandt suggested that Mr. Coulon speak with Jack Card at NEMMC to develop a 'layman's technical description' of the spray and spraying process in order to inform the public about the situation and address misinformation that may have been put out through the media. Mr. Coulon invited Board Members to participate in a ride along with NEMMC if spraying is deemed necessary this season.

Introduction of DPH Intern Alex Brinkert:

Mr. Coulon introduced Alex Brinkert to the Board. She is a 2008 graduate of Boston College who is working as a Registered Nurse while pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health from Tufts University. She is also working for the South Shore VNA. Mr. Coulon thanked Ms. Brinkert for her help this summer and asked her to describe the project she is working on.

Ms. Brinkert told the Board that she attended two of the three days at the Biology and Control of Vectors Seminar this past May, and since then, she has been working on developing an Integrated Pest Management Program for schools and day care facilities in the Tri Town. She informed the Board that on July 29, she will be hosting an IPM Presentation with Mr. Coulon at the Topsfield Library. Fifteen schools and day care centers have been invited to attend and thus far, nine of them will be represented. She informed the Board that the incorporation of an IPM will bring each of these schools and day care facilities into compliance with the Children and Families Protection Act (333CMR 14). She has also written an introduction of Arthur Howe III, the new TRMRC Coordinator, which will be submitted to the Tri Town Transcript for publication.

Mr. Coulon also informed the Board that Heather Darrah has returned for her third summer as a Public Health intern. He reminded the Board that Heather will be a senior at Trine University in the Engineering Department, and she has been working on camp inspections with Ms. Brinkert, following up food complaints and offering general assistance in the office. He praised the work of both Interns.

Emergency Preparedness Update:

Ms. Knutsen told the Board that she and Mr. Coulon were at a state-wide Emergency Preparedness meeting on July 22. Mr. Coulon reminded the Board that Topsfield's score of 94 was second only to Boston, whose score of 100 was achieved with a full time staff dedicated to Emergency Preparedness. He praised Ms. Knutsen for the work she has done on this project.

Ms. Knutsen informed the Board that the town has been invited to participate in a FEMA Tabletop Exercise on November 6, 2013. This is a nation-wide exercise from noon to 4 pm that will be conducted through a live feed at MEMA Headquarters in Framingham. There is a request for a minimum of 12 people in each group, and Ms. Knutsen would like to include local Fire, Police and Public Health Officials in the group. The topic is, "Winter Storm and Specific Agent Release". The Board discussed local emergency preparedness, and Mr. Coulon informed the Board that the State Police are conducting a threat assessment in preparation for this year's fair in response to the recent Boston Marathon bombing.

Monthly Case Review:

Mr. Coulon read an email he received from a local resident who had recently been sold \$240 worth of septic system 'additives' from Wind River Environmental. Mr. Coulon told the Board that the resident had also been given a recommendation from Wind River Environmental that he should purchase an aeration system for his leach field. The resident queried Mr. Coulon about the necessity of these additional additives and components for an existing, working septic system. Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he told the resident that neither is necessary for a properly installed, working septic system and he questioned the ethics of a local septic hauler trying to sell unnecessary goods and equipment to homeowners. He concluded that he can only answer the homeowners honestly when they call the office with such questions.

284 Perkins Row and 19 Perkins Circle Properties and Attorney General's Office:

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that two representatives from the Attorney General's office came to Topsfield and met with him, Selectman Morrison, Building Inspector Glen Clohecy and Selectman Vogel and a neighbor of the two properties. They visited 284 Perkins Row and 19 Perkins Circle that had come to the attention of BOH through complaints about vacant, unsecured homes and unattended pools that were not fully fenced and stagnant pool water that becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Mr. Coulon reported that with the involvement of the Attorney General's office, he has been contacted by the property management company of 284 Perkins Row and steps have been taken to secure these properties and address the concerns. 19 Perkins Row appears to be under agreement to be sold in August.

Tight Tanks at Fairgrounds

Mr. Coulon reported that two of the three proposed tight tanks have been installed at the Fair Grounds. He said this will make a great improvement in the disposal of grey water during the fair. The third tight tank will be installed in the summer of 2014.

FY13 Health Agent Report

The Board reviewed the draft of the FY13 Health Agent Report. Ms. Knutsen found an extra line in the Volume Analysis and there was discussion about the wording to describe Complaints. It was decided that the wording should be "General Complaints". The Board agreed to accept the report with these changes made.

2014 TBOH Meeting Dates

Mr. Coulon explained that at the June 27, 2013 Meeting, the Board voted on the meeting dates through December, 2013 because the Selectman's Office Conference Room Calendar did not yet have calendar pages available for 2014. The Board was presented this evening with the additional dates for FY14:

January 23, 2014, February 27, 2014, March 27, 2014, April 24, 2014, May 22, 2014, June 26, 2014

***VOTE:** Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the following dates for the Topsfield Board of Health Meetings: January 23, 2014, February 27, 2014, March 27, 2014, April 24, 2014, May 22, 2014, June 26, 2014. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

Bill Warrant:

The Bill Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Mr. Topping made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 PM. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary