

TOPSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH  
Meeting of Thursday, August 27, 2009 ~ 7:30 pm  
Town Hall Conference Room

With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:43 PM

Present; William Hunt, Chair; Sheryl Knutsen; Wade Goldman

Not Present: Vincent Guerra

Also Present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary; Gerald Topping, potential BOH member; Selectman Martha Morrison, BOH Liaison; Selectman Dick Gandt

Abbreviations used:

TBOH - Topsfield Board of Health

Public Information

Agenda

***APPOINTMENTS***

**VOTE:** 19 Forrest Road; Jacquelin Scudder – Present: Bill Smith, Installer

Waiver request to use 110 GPD per bedroom instead of 200 GPD per bedroom for system repair

*Ms. Knutsen made a motion to grant the waiver request as written on the plan for 19 Forrest Road. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**VOTE:** New Meadows; Iovanella – Present: James MacDowell, Designer.

To alternate fields and eliminate reserve; reverse May decision to disallow alternating fields based on additional information.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. MacDowell reviewed his proposal to build the reserve fields at the time of construction and that the beds are alternated annually between the leach field/reserve fields. Amber Wood Farms and Great Hill were referenced as two developments where this approach has successfully been used.

The Health Agent recommended the plan be approved as submitted.

Mr. Gandt gave input saying it is possible under this scenario to unknowingly contaminate both fields. He also suggested that using a field and letting it dry out may cause trouble and more area is saturated.

*Ms. Knutsen made a motion to take no action to reverse the May decision. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Topping gave input supporting Mr. Gandt's suggestion.

**VOTE:** The Whoopie Wagon; request for a waiver of fee for Topsfield Fair @ \$20 a day for eleven days.

The Health Agent noted that the Whoopie Wagon does not fit the criteria for a fee waiver as determined by the BOH.

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to deny the Whoopie Wagon request for a fee waiver for upcoming 2009 Fair. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

**VOTE:** 34 Towne Lane; Hutt –Present: Gordon Rogerson, Hayes Engineering

Variance for volume of sanitary sewerage from 200 gallons per day per bedroom to 110 gallons

Variance for Leach Field less than 20 feet from foundation

Variance for less than 200 sq ft per bedroom; reduced to 750 Sq Ft

*Ms. Knutsen made a motion to accept as delineated in letter dated revised July 28, 2009 regarding 34 Towne Lane as matched on the plan. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

**VOTE:** 9 Garden St. – Title V extension

The BOH did not meet in July 2009; this item was continued from the July agenda.

This is a vacant property. The demolition permit will be issued to demolish the original house. Two years ago the septic system passed Title V. The request before the BOH is to extend the validity of the system passing Title V for two additional years; the validity ended July 28, 2009.

The Agent recommended that the validity be extended.

The Board noted their concern that this system possibly does not comply with current flow and capacity bylaws.

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to deny the request for an extension to Title V. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

**VOTE:** 95 Wenham Rd. - Perc data validity extension for undeveloped lots;

Present: Mr. Hebert.

Mr. Coulon reviewed extensive perc holes were done two years ago. The Health Agent recommended favorable action.

*Ms. Knutsen made a motion to extend the validity for 95 Wenham Road for two years under Section 15 of the Town Septic regulations. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried by majority vote with Mr. Hunt in the negative.*

### **HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT**

**Emergency Preparedness/Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corp.** – update

Medical Reserve Corps is made up of nine communities. This is being utilized in addressing H1N1 and other situations i.e. hurricanes, epidemics, emergencies.

TRMRC has 200 volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps. A table will be at the Topsfield Fair for all of Massachusetts Outreach and Recruitment.

### **Mutual Aid**

Mr. Coulon stated that the Board is to strategize their proposal to sign on with other members of the coalition to have a mutual aid agreement. It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

**Mosquito** – Mr. Coulon gave a report on local mosquito testing saying that Triple EEE mosquitoes have been found in Merrimac. The North East Mosquito Control District will place traps in the center of the district including Boxford.

Many seminars for Triple EEE are being held. All school nurses have been attending these along with school Principals, and Health Agents.

Updated N1H1 information is included in these seminars.

Meetings are continuous.

### **Topsfield Village Shopping Center (TVSC)**

Present: Fred Fish, Installer, Raggs, Inc; Spyros Flomp, Manager TVSC; Peter Flomp, Co-Manager of

## TVSC

Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update regarding the septic system project at the TVSC saying that the work is proceeding.

He said the pitches of the pipes have been verified, as have internal man holes, catch basins, setbacks, and that the construction complies with the design plans; field changes are in the spirit of the approved plan.

The main waste line is completed from the primary settling tank to Century One building.

All commercial tenants have been tied in except for the Gift Horse, and Day Break Café.

The grease trap and covering of leach field is not completed to date.

The gas lines were ruptured twice (the lines were not marked as recorded)

Mr. Fish stated the system is tied in to a 1300 gallon tank and is being pumped until utility companies complete their work. He also informed the Board that the plans for paving the parking are being done. Discussion followed about the Rail Trail, elevations, and run off.

Gils store was a part of this discussion. It was noted that this is a failed cess pit. Mr. Coulon has been talking with the owner, Jim Gilford, and the options and alternatives that need to be considered.

Mr. Coulon stated that the main waste line has successfully been installed passed this pit. The pit is pumped as needed. Title V provides for a period of time for the owner to have a limited period of time to consider options. Gils Store is separately owned apart of the strip mall.

Jim Gilford is addressing this failure.

Mr. Gandt told Mr. Fish that the Salem Registry of Deeds, page 420; plan 8, shows easement of the Town to traverse 7 Grove Street; the easement does not abut the shopping center property line. Fill needs to be brought in to meet the grade between the Rail Trail and the abutter's property.

Mr. Fish was provided with a copy of the plan.

**English Commons** – Weston and Sampson are reviewing the plans and the use of the bio-filter; ground breaking is expected this fall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**VOTE:** Meeting Minutes Approval Jan, April, May, June '09

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to approve the January 29, 2009 minutes with edits as indicated. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to approve April 16, 2009 minutes with edits as indicated. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

*Ms. Knutsen April ES approve with edits as indicated. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to accept the May 28, 2009 minutes with edits as indicated. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Goldman made a motion to approve the June 25, 2009 minutes as submitted to include the court reporter transcript for 4 North Commons. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.*

**VOTE:** Approve alternate Health Agents

Temporary Alternate Health Agents were approved by the Board until the end of this fiscal year 2010:

Leo Cormier for general public health issues  
Alex Parker, septic issues  
Murray Salvatore, food inspection including Topsfield Fair.

### **Gil's Grocery**

Mr. Coulon reviewed that Title V provides the owner of a property of a failed system 2 years or less time if determined by regulatory board to fix/repair the system.

The cess pit is in failure; a formal notice will be issued by the BOH Agent and the situation will be monitored. The BOH will continue to be updated.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**BOH Webpage** – Web Site Committee

This was deferred to the next meeting.

### **Findings of Fact re: June Decision re: 4 North Common St.**

Present: Attorney Allan Grenier – The Board unanimously decided to table action until the next regular meeting September 24, 2009. Mr. Grenier concurred.

### **FINANCIALS**

Review and Sign Bill Warrant

**VOTE:** 120 High Street/Hickory Beech/Meeting Way Release of Funds – sign letter to Town Accountant and separate bill warrant

Joe Falzone asked for special account funds to be released for Hickory Beach / 120 High Street. The Board signed the appropriate forms.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The BOH will forward a letter of recommendation to the BOS to appoint Gerald Topping to the BOH. Mr. Topping has a background in Engineering.

***11: 23 PM Executive Session –***

***Ms. Knutsen made a motion to enter in to ES and not to return to open session. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion was approved by roll call vote.***

***11:52 Ms. Knutsen made a motion to adjourn and it was approved by roll call vote.***

***Respectfully submitted by***

***Catherine Tinsley***