

Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, September 24, 2009
Town Hall, Main Street

With a quorum present, Ms. Knutsen called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:40PM
Present; Chair; Sheryl Knutsen, Acting Chair; Vincent Guerra; Gerald Topping
Also Present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary; Selectman Martha Morrison, BOH Liaison (7:47 Pm); Selectman Dick Gandt
Not Present: William Hunt, Wade Goldman

Abbreviations used:

TBOH - Topsfield Board of Health

Public Information

Agenda

I. APPOINTMENTS

VOTE: 19 Rowley Bridge Rd. Map 47, Parcel 34 - Rowell

Present: Greg Hochmuth, Neve Morin Group, Inc.; Applicants Patricia & Jonathan Rowell

This is a design for a repair system. The applicant is requesting a local upgrade request of reduction in separation between the SAS and high groundwater from 5 feet to 4 feet.

The Board reviewed a Sanitary Disposal System plan dated August 24, 2009

A Quick Four Infiltrator System will be used.

Dr Guerra made a motion to grant the local upgrade application request as stated on Form 9A variance of separation from ground water 5 feet to 4 feet contingent on submitted plan passing plan review.

Mr. Topping seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

II. HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

- Emergency Preparedness/Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corp(TRMRC) / Flu: Seasonal & H1N1- update

Mr. Coulon reviewed that as part of the emergency preparedness, the TRMRC was advised to schedule the Seasonal Flu Clinic earlier in August/September, but since that time companies stopped manufacturing seasonal vaccinations to increase the production of H1N1 vaccines creating a shortage and delay of the seasonal Flu Vaccination.

Topsfield Flu Clinic is October 15th at Emerson Hall. The VNA is contracted by the BOH to dispense the vaccinations.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Flu Clinic guidelines.

The Town of Topsfield will not impose restrictions for receiving vaccinations through Topsfield Clinic, but concerns were observed and a part of this discussion.

Mr. Coulon reviewed proactive actions he is taking saying he meets with other (Tri Town) health agents, school nurses and attends conferences to keep informed and work cooperatively and efficiently. It is unknown when Topsfield will receive the H1N1 vaccinations.

· Mosquito – update

Mr. Coulon reported that Hamilton has EEE mosquitoes; because of cooler over night temperatures, Hamilton is not spraying. He also said that a horse died in Peabody and West Peabody is being sprayed tonight.

The effectiveness of spraying was explained by the Health Agent that only certain species of mosquito are known to be typical carriers of EEE virus, and West Nile virus; areas preferred by these species, e.g. catch basins, swimming pools are targeted.

Topsfield Town Meeting voted to join Mosquito Control District.

Mr. Coulon reviewed how Mosquito Control District advises and assists Topsfield.

· Topsfield Village Shopping Center (TVSC) – update

Mr. Coulon reported that the parking lot has not been paved to date and went on to say there are uncertain agreements between the parties involved.

He also reviewed outstanding issues the TVSC has with the Board with the TBOH.

Mr. Coulon updated the Board that National Grid has not provided power for the pumps and affluent is being monitored and pumped as needed and the Station Sweet Shop is now closed.

It was suggested the BOH consider adopting a Performance Bond for future projects, if allowed, and to review BOH regulations.

The Board talked about their responsibility to consider the two easements on the plan.

As a standing agenda item, this discussion will be continued at future meetings.

· English Commons – No update

· Fair – review of preparations

Mr. Coulon made the Board aware of his perspectives as Health Agent regarding the Topsfield Fair. He reported that in addition to the food vendors, he monitors the gray water tight tanks, sanitary means, petting zoo, disposals, and that he does two inspections per day. He explained the process of handling violations.

He explained that this is the second year using the general permit for all participants that involve a fee and inspection, saying that it is working out very well and saves a lot of work for each department i.e. Fire, Health, Electric, Gas, Building, Vendor, Food, etc.

The State Inspectors office has been invited to come to the Fair to assist the local Health Department.

Mr. Coulon extended an invitation to the Board to observe the daily inspections.

He noted that the orientation meeting held for vendors prior to the Fair is well attended.

Beaver Control

Mr. Coulon reported on Beaver Control saying he received emergency requests for two sites in town. The State division of Fishery and Wildlife gives guidelines on beaver control to local Boards of Health. He reported that both these requests were denied citing the sites did not conform to the guidelines; they are existing man-made culverts which must be cleaned periodically and maintained and sticks from beavers is not considered a dam.

The Conservation Commission is involved when dams are breeched.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

· **VOTE:** Minutes Approval August 2009 - Action on the Minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

· BOH Webpage – Web Site Committee – This item was deferred to the next meeting.
· Mutual Aid - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

• Findings of Fact re: June Decision re: 4 North Common Street:

Present: Attorney Alan Grenier representing Frank and Kristi Martino, 4 North Common Street
Mr. Coulon reviewed that at the June BOH meeting the design plans and variance requests were accepted and approved by the BOH by majority vote. Action was deferred to further discuss the Findings of Fact Letter.

Ms. Knutsen suggested points to be considered.

Attorney Grenier asked for a continuance to the next meeting.

Mr. Coulon reported that the Chair, Mr. Hunt is drafting a Findings of Fact letter. Mr. Coulon reviewed the legal suits related with this property. With no assignment date from the Court for oral arguments, there is no time constraint to submitting the letter; this will be a standing agenda item.

V. **FINANCIALS**

· Review and Sign Bill Warrants

VI. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10:16 PM - Mr. Topper made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.