

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2015
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, May 28, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of Topsfield Town Hall.

Board of Health Members present: Sheryl Knutsen RN – Acting Chair; Gerald Topping PE; Vincent Guerra MD; Joseph Collins ESQ.; Christopher Cole, re: 21 Pemberton; James Cole re: 21 Pemberton; James Scanlan PE re: 21 Pemberton; Anne Neal, Real Estate Broker re: 21 Pemberton; Mark Moreschi re: 21 Pemberton; Benjamin Kelley re: 21 Pemberton; Anthony DelGaizo PE from Ragg's Septic Service re: 3 Ross Road; Fred Fish, owner Ragg's Septic Service re: 3 Ross Road; John Coulon RS, Health Agent; Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary.

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS:

BOH: Board of Health	MAVEN: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiology Network
CDC: Center for Disease Control	MDPH: Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
CEU: Continuing Education Unit	MRC: Medical Reserve Corps
DEP: Department of Environmental Protection	NEMMC: Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control
DPH: Department of Public Health	PE: Professional Engineer
EMS: Emergency Medical Services	PHEP: Public Health Emergency Preparedness
EP: Emergency Preparedness	RN: Registered Nurse
HHS: Health and Human Services	TBOH: Topsfield Board of Health
HMCC: Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition	
EOC: Emergency Operations Center	TRMRC: Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corps
LSAC: Local State Advisory Committee	
LPHI: Local Public Health Institute	USFDA: United States Food and Drug Administration
MDPH: Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health	
Public Information	

Agenda

Acting Chair Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

APPOINTMENTS:

21 Pemberton Road Variance Requests: reduction of setback from edge of leach field to boundary line from 10 feet to 7 feet; reduction of 5 foot overdig in one corner of leach field near garage.

Mr. Coulon updated the Board with the two variance requests for this address. He reminded the Board that they had granted the following variance requests for this property at the 1-22-15 meeting:

Regulation Number	Existing Regulation	Variance Request
310CMR15.212(1)	4 ft to ESHGW PERC > 2 min/in	2 ft to ESHGW w/ Presby System
310CMR15.227(5)	1 foot min. separation between pipe inverts of tanks and ESHGW	All inlets and outlets to have Rubber Boots
310CMR15.104	Percolation Test	Sieve Analysis per UMass Soils Lab

Mr. Scanlan gave the Board a presentation on the proposed variance requests in front of the Board at this time. The Board discussed various options for the proposed septic system at this address.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to grant a variance for a reduction of offset from boundary line to edge of leach field from 10' to 7'6" subject to certification of boundary lines by a surveyor including a plan with a stamped certification by a surveyor. The motion also included a variance from the Title V required 5' overdig to 4' overdig as shown on the plan. Mr. Topping abstained from the vote; Ms. Knutsen, Mr. Collins and Dr. Guerra voted in the affirmative and the variance requests passed in a majority vote.

3 Ross Road: Request reduction in separation to groundwater from 5 feet to 4 feet.

Mr. Coulon gave the Board a synopsis of this variance request. He noted that this request should be in writing. Mr. Topping conducted a review of the plan submitted by Anthony DelGaizo PE, from Ragg's Septic Service. Mr. Topping expressed concern that the proposed 800 square foot leach field constituted overbuilding for this 3-Bedroom home. Concern was expressed that in the future, a homeowner could return to the Board and request that Board allow an increase in the number of bedrooms served by the system because the Board allowed an increase in the size of the leach field for this repair. Mr. Topping reminded Mr. Fish that this Board has a history of not allowing an increase in the bedroom count on a septic repair; only with a new system. He suggested that the Board would consider allowing an 800 square foot leach field as a repair at this address if the design plan was accompanied by a Title V Bedroom Count Deed restriction. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the additional size of the leach field would add longevity to the life of the system. The Board discussed the option of increasing the size of the leach field to incorporate a garbage grinder; that would allow the leach field to be increased to 669 square feet. Mr. DelGaizo and Mr. Fish will confer with the homeowner.

The Board took NO ACTION on this variance request.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

Monthly Case Review: 19 Wilmor Road

Mr. Coulon informed the Board about a recent situation at 19 Wilmor Road. The homes in that neighborhood undergo routine water testing due to the fact that they are adjacent to the closed landfill. Mr. Coulon received word from MDPH that testing conducted April 2, 2015 indicated a level of lead 2X the acceptable norm at 19 Wilmor Road. Mr. Coulon contacted the engineer at the sampling company, who sent him a trending chart for all the properties tested. 19 Wilmor was the only address that had an anomaly in the lead level. Mr. Coulon contacted the family and followed up with an investigation. He determined that the April 2, 2015 sample was retrieved from an outdoor spigot. Mr. Coulon and the sampling engineer took additional samples from all taps within the home and all results were within acceptable parameters. Upon further investigation, Mr. Coulon was told by the homeowner that the outdoor spigot had frozen earlier in the winter and was damaged. It was repaired using a soldering process and had not been used since that time.

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that during the sampling of the interior water sources, he and the sampling engineer used the best practice method which requires the water source to flush for 10 minutes before the sample is taken. Mr. Coulon surmised that the soldering agent used in repairing the exterior spigot could have caused the high lead level in the sample if the Sampling Engineer did not allow the spigot to flush for 10 minutes before taking the sample on April 2, 2015. He reported that, in the sampling session Mr. Coulon conducted with the sampling engineer, they let the outdoor spigot flush for 10 minutes before taking a sample and that sample came back with a normal reading. He told the Board that this is an excellent example of evidence-based public health.

Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Coulon presented the Board with an activity log produced by TRMRC Coordinator Arthur Howe III.

TRMRC Activities included CPR Training co-conducted by Mr. Coulon, Open Gym Night.

Bite Lab: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he presented the MDPH Bite Lab at the Steward School Wellness Fair. He described the Bite Lab as a visual presentation about ticks and mosquitoes and said it was very well received by staff, children and parents.

Mass Medical Society Event: Ms. Knutsen and Mr. Coulon recently attended a seminar at the Mass. Medical Society in Waltham about the intersection of humans, wildlife and domesticated animals in regard to pathogens and illness.

Award: Mr. Coulon showed the Board the 2015 Community Partner Award he received from the Tri-Town Coalition. Dr. Guerra read the letter to the Board outlining the Coalition's gratitude for Mr. Coulon's many contributions of time and resources to the mission of the Coalition.

Soil Testing: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that Scott Cameron PE from the Morin-Cameron Group has approached him about conducting exploratory Soil Testing at 120 Hill Street, and the owner's plan to sell 56 acres that abut English Commons.

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he has been given a scholarship to attend the NEHA Conference in Denver, Colorado during the week of June 15. He had already committed to attending the upcoming June 18 MHOA Educational Seminar on 'Boards Behaving Badly' in Framingham, and offered his spot at the MHOA Seminar to a Board Member. Ms. Knutsen will consider attending the meeting in his stead.

OLD BUSINESS:

Release of Contract Funds

VOTE: Ms. Knutsen made a motion to release the following funds, thus ending the contracts for Peer Review on projects that are completed:

- \$1,656.95 for English Commons
- \$ 159.92 for New Meadows
- \$2,810.00 for The Commons

Mr. Collins seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Fluoride

Dr. Guerra told the Board that his neighbor, Dr. Tom Grady, asked him to express his concern that the Fluoride Committee voted to lower the town's Fluoride level to .7% at the town meeting in May, 2015. Dr. Guerra told the Board that Dr. Grady wishes the Board to know that he believes this will increase the likelihood of a resurgence in dental caries. The Board thanked Dr. Guerra for the information.

NEW BUSINESS:

New MDPH Intern

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that Alexander Moreta will be joining the Topsfield Board of Health as a summer intern. Mr. Moreta is currently a Master's Degree in Public Health candidate at Boston University.

VNA Contract

The Board reviewed the FY16 VNA Contract. The Board decided to hold off on a vote on this Contract until Mr. Hunt has the opportunity to review it. Mr. Coulon was instructed to speak with Maureen Sendrowski at the VNA to inquire about purchasing vaccine for FY16 Flu Vaccine Clinics. He reported that he has spoken with Town Administrator Kellie Hebert about this topic and he will follow up. This topic will be revisited at the June, 2015 Meeting.

Geothermal Wells

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that DEP recognizes Geothermal wells as water wells, and local practice varies in the way they are permitted. The Board determined that the current permitting fee of \$75.00 per well will continue for Geothermal Wells and that Geothermal Wells must be indicated on a plan.

VOTE: Ms. Knutsen made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 pm. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary