

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 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, June 25, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of Topsfield Town Hall.

Board of Health Members present: William Hunt ESQ, Chair; Sheryl Knutsen RN – Clerk; Gerald Topping PE; Vincent Guerra MD

Others: Anthony DelGaizo PE, Ragg's Inc. re: 3 Ross Road; Fred Fish, owner Ragg's re: 3 Ross Road; Edward Crellin – 3 Ross Road; Daniel Johnson RS re: 17 Silverbrook Road; Joe and Lauren Adams re: 17 Silverbrook; Richard Gandt – resident; 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
EDS: Emergency Dispensing Site	PHEP: Public Health Emergency Preparedness
EMS: Emergency Medical Services	POD: Point Of Dispensing
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
ESHGW: Estimated Seasonal High Groundwater	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 7:36 PM.

NEW BUSINESS: MOSQUITOS

Mr. Coulon presented the Board with a synopsis of the 2015 Vector Management Plan and the 2015 Best Management Practice Plan for Topsfield. Board Members reviewed the documents.

Mr. Hunt arrived at 7:42 PM. Ms. Knutsen ceded Chairmanship of the meeting to Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Coulon shared information on mosquito-borne illnesses with the Board.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2015 Vector Management Plan and the 2015 Best Management Practice Plan for Topsfield. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MINUTES:

Board Members reviewed the May 28, 2015 Minutes.

VOTE: Dr. Guerra made a motion to accept the May 28, 2015 Minutes as written. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

3 Ross Road: Local Upgrade Approval Request: allow a reduction in the groundwater offset from 5 feet to 4 feet.

Mr. Coulon gave a description of the May 28, 2015 appearance before the Board by Mr. DelGaizo and Mr. Fish from Ragg's. He reminded the Board that Mr. DelGaizo was informed at the May 28, 2015 Board of Health meeting that the size of the leach field could be increased in compliance with Title V regulations for systems that must accommodate a garbage grinder.

Mr. DelGaizo presented the Board with a revised septic design plan including a 700 square foot leach field to accommodate a garbage grinder. He explained that he is asking for the Local Upgrade Approval to ensure that water does not run back toward the house. The system will be compliant with Title V regulations for a garbage grinder, with a 2-compartment septic tank. Mr. DelGaizo noted that the Variance Requests are indicated on the septic design plan under #23 in the Notes section. Mr. Coulon requested that the information be noted more clearly on the plan. Mr. DelGaizo complied with this request during the meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to approve the Local Upgrade Approval to allow a reduction in the groundwater offset from 5 feet to 4 feet, subject to the Health Agent approval of the septic design plan. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

17 Silverbrook Road: Request to reduce the distance between the Estimated Seasonal High Groundwater (ESHGW) and the bottom of the leaching area with a percolation rate of less than 2 MPI from 5' to 3' for the "Presby" Enviro-Septic System.

Mr. Coulon explained to the Board that Title V regulations require that the Board approve the use of any credits allowed by Title V when using an Enviro-Septic (Presby) System. Daniel Johnson RS gave the Board a description of the proposed system for this address.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to approve the request to reduce the distance between the ESHGW and the bottom of the leaching area as noted in the Variance Request from 5' to 3' in accordance with Title V regulations regarding the 'Presby' Enviro-Septic System. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

VOTE: Delegation of Authority: Mr. Johnson and Mr. Coulon explained to the Board that although Title V grants "credits" for various "innovative and alternative" approaches to septic system design, final approval must be granted in the local jurisdiction. The board was informed that some BOHs delegate that authority to their Agent/Director. This avoids an unnecessary appearance before the BOH. Mr. Topping made a motion to delegate such authority to the Agent to determine compliance and grant approval in such cases. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

7 Towne Lane: Request to remove Title V Bedroom Count Deed Restriction

Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update on this property. He reminded them that this issue was in front of the Board at the April 23, 2015 Meeting. No action was taken at that time. Since that time, a revised plan for a 4-bedroom system has been received, reviewed and approved by the Health Agent.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to issue a rescission of the existing 3-bedroom Title V Bedroom Count Deed Restriction for 7 Towne Lane upon the completion of a Certificate of Compliance for the proposed 4-bedroom septic system at this address. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

Emergency Preparedness: Ms. Knutsen showed the Board the PowerPoint Presentation she and Mr. Moreta developed regarding a regional EDS/POD plan. The Board gave unanimous approval and thanks to them for creating such a well-crafted, informative presentation. Ms. Knutsen gave the Board a verbal description of the proposed Region 3A Tri-Town Operational EDS Plan. She commended the Administration at Masconomet Regional High School for their willingness to accommodate and assist with this plan. Ms. Knutsen described the difference between an 'Open' POD such as the proposed EDS site at Masconomet, and a 'Closed' POD such as localized distribution at the Fire Station for town employees and their families, or Masconomet Health Care distributing medicines within their facility. She explained that the MEMA has chosen Masconomet Regional High School as a reception site in the event of a nuclear incident at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant because it is outside the 10 mile radius of the power plant, with easy access to a major highway. Further discussion is warranted regarding planning to use one facility for both of these emergencies.

Concern was raised regarding traffic congestion around Masconomet Regional High School if it is the EDS Site for the 24,000 residents of the Tri-town area. Ms. Knutsen informed the Board that a 'head of household' approach would be used, which would call for approximately 7,000 tri-town residents to access the EDS. The Board discussed various transportation options. Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he, Ms. Knutsen and Ms. Winslow attended a table top Drive-Through EDS Drill at Peabody High School last year. It was further clarified that the Masconomet plan is still a draft proposal, whereas the official Topsfield EDS site remains Proctor school.

Monthly Case Review: Mr. Coulon asked Ms. Winslow to give a short synopsis of a recent case. Ms. Winslow informed the Board that the office received a call from a resident wishing to speak with the Coyote Manager at the Board of Health. Ms. Winslow reported that she asked the caller if there had been a specific incident that should be reported to the Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer, and she was told that no, the caller just thinks there are too many coyotes in Topsfield and she wants the Coyote Manager to do something about it.

Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update on a recent complaint he received regarding possible mold at a local business. Mr. Coulon reported that he visited the location and upon opening the door to a utility closet housing the air conditioning unit, he discovered that it had been leaking onto the floor, soaking the carpet. The tenant had not checked in that area previously. He also determined that stains on the wall that the tenant feared were mold turned out to be marks left by previous framed artwork that had been hanging in that location.

Report from Alex Moreta: Mr. Coulon introduced MDPH Summer Intern Alex Moreta. Mr. Moreta is a candidate for a Master's Degree in Public Health at Boston University. He has been working with Ms. Knutsen on the development of a Regional Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Plan at Masconomet Regional High School. Mr. Moreta gave the Board a synopsis on the recent MHOA educational event he attended, "Public Health Officials Behaving Badly." He reported that Boston land attorney Gregor McGregor gave an informative presentation on legal liability and the risks of blurring the public and private sector, including cases where public officials were successfully sued. The event also touched on search and seizure, administrative warrants and protocols and procedures that must be followed. Mr. Moreta told the Board that Boston University has an excellent class in Health Law.

General Activities: 57 Perkins Row - Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he has received the Preliminary Plan for a 5-lot subdivision proposed for this address. He told the Board that soil testing was conducted at this location last Fall, with 20 Percolation Tests and 20 Deep Observation Holes.

Towne Lane: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that land owned by Richard Thompsen on Towne Lane is being considered for potential development by Edmund LeClair of Boxford.

120 Hill Street: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that the homeowner of 120 Hill Street has an agreement with a neighbor to develop between 20 – 24 lots on 65 acres at this location. Soil testing was conducted at this location recently.

Route 1 and Route 97 Intersection: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that this 'orphan' lot is being soil tested for potential development.

19 Wilmor Road DEP Issue: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that on April 2, 2015, a water sample was taken as part of routine sampling at 19 Wilmor Road. The property is one of a number of properties that undergo routine water testing because of their proximity to the closed Topsfield Landfill. The April 2, 2015 sample taken at 19 Wilmor Road indicated a lead level 2x the maximum acceptable number. Mr. Coulon followed up and completed resampling of the water at this address using best management practices with an Engineer from Weston & Sampson. This included taking samples from 6 of the indoor and outdoor faucets at this address after a 5 minute flush before sampling per best management practices. The follow up samples showed no detected lead levels. At that time, the homeowner informed Mr. Coulon that the outdoor tap that was used for the water sample on April 2 had undergone a repair that included lead soldering before that date and had not been used since the repair. Mr. Coulon surmised that if the tap was not flushed sufficiently on April 2 before the sample was taken, residual lead from the soldering process could have affected the water sample. The Town of Topsfield received a \$6,000 bill from Weston and Sampson for the follow-up testing. This bill has been contested as excessive. Mr. Coulon is working with Town Procurement Agent Roberta Knight to further address what they view as an unreasonably high bill.

Colorado: Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update on his recent involvement at an FDA working meeting from June 14 – 19 in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Coulon is a nationally recognized "subject matter expert" in Retail Food Safety and has been asked to confer with others on the development of a framework upon which will be built a curriculum and national standard for regulatory officials working in Retail Food Safety.

Tick Talk: The Board was informed that Mr. Coulon presented the annual Tick Talk on June 3 at the Gould Barn. He procured the MDPH Bite Lab for the event and invited Yankee Pest Control to present as well.

THANK YOU TO WILLIAM HUNT: The Board took the opportunity to present Mr. Hunt with a thank you card and a cake to wish him well and thank him for his service to the Town of Topsfield. Mr. Hunt is stepping down from the Board after this meeting after over ten years of service.

VNA CONTRACT: The Board reviewed and signed two copies of the FY 16 VNA Contract and the Board of Selectment Request.

HEALTH AGENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW: The Board completed the Health Agent Performance Review

VOTE: Ms. Knutsen made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 PM. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary