

MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2003
Town Hall, Groton, MA

Board of Health Members Present:

Dr. Susan Horowitz, Jodi Deuger, Matthew Waterman

Others Present:

Benjamin Cutone, Debra Butcher

Meeting Called to Order:

Dr. Horowitz called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes: April 29, 2003 minutes were approved as amended; May 13, 2003 & May 27, 2003 minutes were approved as amended.

Permits Signed/Approved:

- *29 McCarthy Drive; Daniel Roy
- *Northwoods Drive. Lot 3; Spero Construction
- *248 Chicopee Row; Gabriel Nucci

Bills Signed/Approved:

- *Belmont Springs-\$27.00
- *Shattuck Oil-\$115.83 (ref.#13246)
- *Shattuck Oil-\$115.83 (ref #13247)
- *Covanta-\$9168.55
- *Moison Ace Hardware (SW)-\$88.25
- *Casey & Dubuis-\$136.91
- *Moison Ace Hardware (BOH)-\$8.76
- *Shattuck Oil-\$113.56
- *Groton Electric Light-\$6.86
- *Groton Electric Light-\$77.34
- *Groton Electric Light-\$40.39
- *Rick Lamarre-\$730.62
- *Rick Lamarre-\$923.67
- *Rick Lamarre-\$870.21
- *Rick Lamarre-\$1056.33
- *Rick Lamarre-\$811.80
- *Rick Lamarre-\$693.99
- *Rick Lamarre-\$754.38
- *Rick Lamarre-\$804.87
- *Broadmeadow Sign-\$240.00
- *Advance Security Systems-\$18.33
- *Routhier & Sons-\$311.00
- *MAHB renewal-town membership-\$50

37 Off Prescott Street: Present: Jill & Jack McCafferty, homeowners

Mr. McCafferty stated that it was their desire to change their water supply from an existing shallow well to a deeper well. He stated that he has hired Skillings & Sons to dig the well but it required variances on his property:

Distance from current septic system to the proposed well – 100 feet required;

85 feet proposed.

Distance from property line – 50 feet required; 2 feet provided.

Mr. McCafferty stated that the proposed location would be the best solution in order to preserve the trees. He stated that his abutter, Mrs. Woodle, had no concerns. He said that there was an existing cesspool serving one portion of the house where plumbing couldn't hook up to the new sewage disposal system.

Health Agent Ben Cutone stated that there was no indication that the sewage disposal system was not working.

Member Waterman asked if there was any other area to place the system. Mr. Cutone stated that the property consisted of steep slopes and that this was the best solution. He reported that the applicant had contacted him regarding concerns about his water quality. He said that the property was limited in overall square footage, the existing sewage disposal system and Lost Lake, therefore, requiring variances for the well location. Mr. Cutone stated that town water was in excess of 3,500 feet away.

Discussion continued regarding the location of the system in order to prevent soil erosion.

Dr. Horowitz stated that the Lost Lake Weed Committee was currently involved with reviewing wells in that area and that any improvement would be best. She asked how deep his current well was. Mr. McCafferty stated that it was a wash well and was only 25 feet deep.

Member Jodi Deuger stated that she supported the variances and made a motion to accept them as written. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cutone will issue the permit.

Surrenden Farm: Present: Larry Beals, Debra Farnsworth

Mr. Beals provided a history and location of dwellings presentation to the Board. He stated that two plans were filed involving a conventional and alternative design for a 75 lot subdivision. He stated that, in accordance with the Board of Health's Local Regulations, two deep holes and two percolation tests were conducted on each lot and that the layout for the subdivision met those requirements. He said that the subdivision contained homes in the higher and lower priced range.

Member Jodi Deuger asked if each lot would contain its own sewage disposal system. Mr. Beals stated "yes" – one lot, one system. Member Deuger recommended that a risk assessment be done and that the Board may need to have Dr. Sundstrom review it again. Dr. Horowitz stated that it would be also necessary to possibly have another Licensed Site Professional review any remediation of the site.

Member Waterman suggested that some type of deed notification be done as part of the certification regarding any arsenic found on the properties. It was agreed that each party would research the validity of such a requirement.

Discussion continued regarding risk assessments in the five district areas of the property including the open space area and the removal of soil from the site. Member Waterman stated that only clean soil should be removed off the site. Mr. Beals stated that it would involve clean soils and that the proposal was to take the soils to ball fields. However, he stated that if the Board denied having soils removed from the site, he would honor the Board's request.

Dr. Horowitz was concerned about dust control and asked if testing and a risk assessment be conducted for every site. Member Waterman requested that no contaminated soil be removed off site but wasn't opposed to just moving the soils from one area to another.

The Board of Health agreed to continue the hearing until June 23, 2003.

111 Wharton Row: Present: Mr. & Mrs. Chinnaswamy; Gordon Newell, Water Superintendent

Dr. Horowitz stated that she asked that the applicant return for further discussion regarding their request for an irrigation well. She said that the property was currently served by town water. She said that the Board of Health never officially acted on their request for a shallow well at the last hearing. Dr. Horowitz apologized to the Chinnaswamy's on the Board's behalf.

Dr. Horowitz explained that the current regulations didn't allow for the construction of shallow wells and were only

permitted with a variance approval from the Board of Health. Discussion continued regarding the requirements allowing the construction of a deep driven well for irrigation purposes.

The Board of Health explained that water was a resource that they needed to protect and that the Town could not assume that the homeowner will always do the right thing to protect the groundwater and manage those resources.

Dr. Horowitz stated that without the proper controls in place, the Water Department could not control water usage to protect that resource. She stated that the Board would need to vote on the request for a shallow well because shallow wells were not allowed under the Town's current Well Regulations.

Mrs. Chinnaswamy stated that she reviewed the regulations and would be willing to have a deep, 100 foot well constructed subject to the Town's requirements. She said she would be willing to install a water use meter on the private well too.

West Groton Water Superintendent Gordon Newell advised the Board about backflow prevention devices to prevent any cross-connections to the town water supply. He stated that he has had previous problems with residents who have cross-connected their private well to the town municipal water system. He cautioned that the Board provide language in their regulations to allow inspections by the Water Departments.

The Board of Health agreed and thanked Mr. Newell for his input. Member Deuger made a motion to deny a request from the Chinnaswamy's to construct a shallow irrigation well on their property at 111 Wharton Row. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board advised them that they could install a deep well and to reapply for a well permit through the Nashoba Boards of Health.

Irrigation Wells: Present: Gordon Newell

Dr. Horowitz proposed opening up the current Well Regulations to containing language on Irrigation Wells. She said that the current regulations were unclear as to the requirements on the approval of them. Member Waterman stated that he was against reopening the regulations because the Board just amended them in April and they contained all the necessary language already.

Dr. Horowitz said that she wanted the language to be clear that no shallow wells would be allowed and that when a resident requested a permit for an irrigation well and fell within the primary or secondary water resource protection district that the Board had the legal standing and ability to deny those requests.

Member Waterman did not agree. He stated that the Board cannot "change the regulations" every time an incident occurred that the Board wanted to deny it for. He argued that the Board was "wasting his time" and would not support the legal costs associated with the reopening of the regulations. Member Jodi Deuger stated that she was neither in favor nor against the reopening of the regulations.

After much discussion, the Board agreed to conduct a public hearing on July 21, 2003. They agreed to have a working session at their next meeting on June 23, 2003 to draft the changes.

Mr. Newell stated that he was concerned with irrigation wells on public water systems due to the possibility of cross-connection and the possible contamination of the public water supply system. The Board of Health said that they would work on making an inspection form that would need to be completed and signed off by the Water Commissioner prior to full approval of any irrigation well request that are on a public water system. The Board of Health proposed changing the Well Regulations making requests for irrigation wells deep, driven wells (100' in depth) only.

Transfer Station Update – Present: David Roy, Tessa David, Michael Brady

Mr. Roy provided an update on the day-to-day operations of the Transfer Station filling in for Bruce Dubey while he was on medical leave. He said that he has been in daily contact with the Highway Surveyor concerning the need for personnel help when the Transfer Station was busy.

Mr. Roy informed the Board of some upcoming expenses needed for repairs to the furnace and backhoe

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equipment at the Transfer Station. He stated that he would have a mechanic look at the repair costs and submit the invoices for payment.

Mr. Roy requested that Paint Days be staffed better so the Transfer Station personnel didn't need to be covering. He stated that they were short-staffed and couldn't leave their regular duties to cover for the Recycling Committee. Member Deuger agreed that it took manpower to make these events run smoother. She said that the operation of the Transfer Station was primary and that if the events didn't have sufficient manpower, the Town should not be offering them.

Michael Brady and Tessa David agreed to help staff the events so the Transfer Station personnel were not impacted.

Mr. Roy asked for clarification on the Pay As You Throw program and the requirements for stickers and bags. Mr. Brady stated that if residents wanted to access the Transfer Station for trash disposal, they would need to have a valid sticker and town approved bags to do so. The Board agreed that the Recycling Committee be present and more visible to answer residents' questions on Saturdays.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Susan Horowitz
Chairman

Jodi Deuger

Matthew Waterman

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra A. Butcher