

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 28, 2003**  
**Town Hall, Groton, MA**

**Board of Health Members Present:**

Dr. Susan Horowitz, Chairman; Jodi Deuger, Matthew Waterman

**Others Present:**

Benjamin Cutone, R.S.; Debra Butcher

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Dr. Horowitz called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**Permits Signed/Approved:**

- \*213 Whiley Road; Michael & Janet Field
- \*Paugus Trail, Lot B30; Robert Lacombe
- \*12 Highland Road; George Day
- \*117 Hill Road; Paul McGuire
- \*Hoyts Wharf Road, Lot 4; Bennett R. Black
- \*22 Hazel Road; Sean Walsh (transfer from G. Eblan)
- \*212 Longley Road; Barry Cunningham

**Bills Signed/Approved:**

- \*Metrostat-\$35.00
- \*ZEP Manufacturing-\$222.71
- \*Advance Security Systems-\$18.35
- \*Moison Ace Hardware-\$116.44
- \*Belmont Springs-\$27.60
- \*Buckley Energy-\$182.41
- \*Frank Mastrangelo-tobacco compliance-\$3.00
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$576.18
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$612.81
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$1018.71
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$577.17
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$551.43
- \*Kevin Fuller-\$140.00
- \*Rick Lamarre & Son-\$892.98
- \*Onyx Special Services-\$517.11
- \*Cyn Environmental Services-\$100.00
- \*Routhier Tires-\$269.00
- \*Covanta Energy-\$3012.12
- \*Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter)-\$5738.75
- \*ApparelMaster-\$77.28
- \*Padula Brothers-\$18.00
- \*GeoInsight-\$413.40
- \*Groton Electric Light-\$35.17
- \*Groton Electric Light-\$50.71

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- \*Groton Electric Light-\$7.19
- \*Moore's Lumber-\$132.00
- \*CTC Communications (BOH)-\$57.07
- \*CTC Communications (SW)-\$32.34
- \*CTC Communications (SW)-\$32.93
- \*CTC Communications (BOH)-\$60.05

## General Business

### Central Massachusetts Mosquito Agency

The Board discussed the possibility of whether to support funding to join the Agency for mosquito spraying. Dr. Horowitz felt the topic should be pursued and discussed with the Conservation Commission.

Member Deuger felt that she couldn't support blanket spraying for fear of harming other insects and birds. She supported the use of dunks, however, but was concerned about the impact to other animals with the use of pesticides.

Member Waterman stated that he would like to research the cost benefit and what the other surrounding towns were doing to decrease the percentage of the West Nile Virus. Dr. Horowitz felt that the Board of Health should at least pursue options for the protection of public health.

Discussion continued regarding the testing and trapping of mosquitoes and the estimated costs. Dr. Horowitz stated that our office received numerous calls from residents who had "dead birds" on their properties. She would like to keep track of those calls for next year.

Dr. Horowitz stated that she has alerted the Board of Selectmen and would like to conduct a public hearing prior to Town Meeting next year. She also said that she has scheduled a preliminary meeting with the Conservation Commission on November 12, 2003. Member Deuger agreed that the Board should pursue more information on dunks and made a motion to solicit comments from the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Member Waterman and approved unanimously.

### Groton Highway Facility – Site Plan Review

Health Agent Benjamin Cutone stated that this site is listed as a 21E site under the Department of Environmental Protection. He said it currently has a permit for a new septic system in full compliance with Title 5 and will be served by town water (West Groton Water Supply District). He stated that he had no concerns with the site.

The Board acknowledged that the Town was still looking at the site and would like proof of the remediation. Mr. Cutone will forward the Board's comments to the Planning Board.

### Oak Ridge Estates – Comprehensive Permit – Present: Dennis McEvoy

Board Member Matthew Waterman recused himself from the discussion. Health Agent Benjamin Cutone stated that the site does not have a septic permit and must be served by a public water supply. He said that he hasn't received any plans to review yet.

Member Jodi Deuger stated that she received a phone call Mr. McEvoy bringing her attention to the fact that Board Member Matthew Waterman was representing the applicant. She questioned whether Member Waterman had witnessed the testing. He stated "no". She felt it was inappropriate to do so as a member of the Board of Health.

Discussion continued regarding the wetlands issues and whether any species have been identified on the site. Resident Dennis McEvoy asked about the contamination site adjacent to the property. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to send comments that stated that

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the Board was aware of the contamination issue off of Gilson Road and would continue to monitor the situation prior to any issuance of permits.

### Surrenden Farm (Lot 8) – Site Plan Review

The Board stated that they have not seen any testing results concerning arsenic levels. Mr. Cutone stated that the site currently does not have a sewage disposal permit and it was his understanding that the site would require a public water supply.

### Board of Assessors' letter – 207 Whiley Road

The Board requested that Mr. Cutone speak with the Board of Assessors and the Building Inspector to answer their concerns.

### November Board of Health meetings

The Board agreed to schedule their November 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> meetings at 7:30pm.

### Lipton Health Services Present: Carolyn Droser, Director of Outpatient and Rehabilitation Services

Debra Butcher stated that she invited Ms. Droser in to give the Board an overview of services provided by Lipton Health Services to residents of Groton. Ms. Butcher stated that the Board would be preparing their FY05 budget in November and requested that Ms. Droser provide statistics in order to evaluate whether the Town could re-evaluate their yearly funding assessment. She stated that the Town budgets \$6500 a year for their services.

Ms. Droser thanked the Board for allowing her to provide statistics for the Town. She stated that for the year July 02 through June 03, a total of 140 individuals received services from the Lipton Center. She stated that there were 2,188 visits to the Center from those 140 individuals totaling \$159,528 in charges. Ms. Droser said that the Center billed the insurance or state contracts for most of that care, however, there were deficits in funding for them. She said that the Lipton Center provided \$11,000 of service resulting in over \$5,000 of free care. This resulted because the Center continued counseling even when the Town's assessment had run out.

Member Deuger asked if there was any room for a reduction. Ms. Droser stated "no". She stated that as the State reduces funding, the uninsured numbers of individuals grows. She reported that the Center would be willing to revisit this in the future, but currently, they were not able to renegotiate this line item.

Member Deuger asked if some of the statistics represented children. Ms. Droser stated "yes, approximately 1/3". She stated that the Center frequently visits the school district and counsels children with challenged behavior. She said that they work closely with the school district on disaster plans and emergency intervention with the children.

Chairman Horowitz questioned whether the school district could contribute to the funding. Ms. Droser stated that some Towns did contribute funding through their Guidance Departments.

Dr. Horowitz suggested that the Board speak with the Board of Selectmen about this.

Member Deuger felt that the Board of Health should not reduce any funding in this area and made a motion to not reduce funding for the Lipton Health Center in their FY05 budget. The motion was seconded by Member Waterman and voted unanimously.

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**474 Boston Road** Present: Kevin Hibbert, Executor & Power of Attorney, Mr. & Mrs. John Erickson

On behalf of his mother, Mr. Hibbert was present requesting the following well variances to drill a new well:

Well Variance 5.0 Distances:

Distance to property line – 50 feet required; *29 feet provided.*

Abutters' notice:

Notice of the hearing shall be given, at the applicant's expense, at least ten (10) days prior thereto, by certified mail to all abutters and their abutters of the property upon which the private well is located. *Less than 10 days notice was given.*

He stated that there was a "salty" taste to the well water which prompted him to have his well tested by the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. He said that the samples were tested by Thorstensen Laboratory and exceeded the Massachusetts recommended level for sodium and chlorides. The laboratory stated that this was a direct result of road salt to his mother's well.

Chairman Horowitz stated that the area was a concern to her and felt that Boston Road should be served by Town water. She asked where Town water was. Mr. Hibbert stated that it ended at Johnson's Drive-In and picked up again at the four corners (Sandy Pond & Boston Road).

Discussion continued about placement of the well. Dr. Horowitz asked whether the rear of the property could be utilized. Mr. Hibbert stated that the septic system was located there and wouldn't meet the offset to his well. Mr. Cutone agreed and stated that he walked the property and there were no other options for placement of the well. Member Waterman stated that there were power lines present.

Mrs. Erickson, abutter to the property, was in attendance to support the variance. She stated that she was sympathetic to the Hibbert's situation because it has been an ongoing problem in that area. She stated that she has lived in her home for over 30 years and frequently has her well tested for arsenic, especially when her children were young, and that there were elevated levels of sodium detected. She said, at one point, she was having a "white substance" build up in her dishwasher and when she had it tested, she said that Thorstensen Laboratories told her that it was the highest level they have tested in New England. Ms. Erickson said that she has been purchasing water ever since. She said she tried soliciting support from neighbors for town water and couldn't gather enough support. She said that this was a health threat and would like the Town to consider running town water along Route 119.

Mr. Hibbert stated that his mother's doctor had advised her not to drink the well water for medical reasons. Dr. Horowitz asked for comments from Mr. Cutone. He stated that he supported the construction of a deep well with a 40' casing and it would resolve the problem.

Member Waterman made a motion to approve the well variances for this property. The motion was seconded by Member Deuger and approved unanimously.

**13 Highland Road** Present: Mark Szela, Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall

Mr. Szela requested the meeting to appeal the Board's condition on the sewage disposal permit requiring that the building sewer be encased in concrete from the building outlet to the distance of 50 feet from the existing well. Mr. Szela requested that the Board instead allow the applicant to sleeve the sewer line with 6" solid PVC pipe and utilize a wrapid sleeve at the joints.

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Discussion continued regarding the design plan and the use of concrete. Health Agent Ben Cutone stated that the request made "sense" to him and he supported the change.

The Board agreed and Member Matthew Waterman made a motion to amend the permit to allow a wrapid sleeve and to sleeve the pipe with 6" of PVC. The motion was seconded by Jodi Deuger and voted unanimously.

**Homeowner's Septic Brochure**

Dr. Horowitz received an outdated brochure entitled "The Groton Guide for Homeowners" and thought it would be beneficial to residents if the Board could update it for reference. She stated that the brochure was published by the Groton Conservation Commission in 1986 and needed updating. Member Waterman stated that he would review it for updates. Selectmen Virginia Wood felt that it could be put on the website once the final edits were made.

**Public Hearing – Portable Toilets**

Dr. Horowitz opened the public hearing at 8:35pm. She felt that the Board of Health should maintain a log of where portable toilets were located in Groton for public health concerns. She stated that it was important for the Board to know the location of the toilets and the contact person requesting them. She said it would be similar to the livestock procedure that the Board currently keeps where a registration is kept each year.

Discussion continued regarding the fees associated. The Board discussed having a minimal fee of \$5.00 for the registration. Member Jodi Deuger felt that could be a hardship for some. Dr. Horowitz asked if other towns had something in place. Selectmen Wood stated that Ashby and Westford had something in place.

Dr. Horowitz felt strongly that the Board adopt a procedure to prevent any source of contamination to the public. She said she would like to begin it on January 1, 2004. Member Jodi Deuger made a motion to require a registration process for portable toilets in the Town beginning January 1, 2004. The motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

**Surrenden Farm**

Debra Butcher provided a copy of the pilot program results. Dr. Horowitz stated that the applicant would be meeting with the Board on November 10, 2003 to review the results.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

**GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Dr. Susan Horowitz  
Chairman

Jodi Deuger

Matthew Waterman

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra A. Butcher

