

MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2004
Town Hall, Groton, Massachusetts

Board of Health Members Present:

Dr. Susan Horowitz, Chairman; Jodi Deuger, Matthew Waterman
(arrived at 8:15 pm)

Others Present:

Ben Cutone, Debra Butcher

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Permits Approved/Signed:

*167 Wharton Row, Gillis Homes

Bills Approved/Signed:

- *Covanta Haverhill-\$2535.30
- *Groton Herald (Landfill monitoring legal notice)-\$96.00
- *Rick Lamarre & Son-\$2461.34
- *Barnes Distribution-\$57.93
- *Shattuck Oil-\$144.13
- *Shattuck Oil-\$84.28
- *Belmont Springs-\$27.59
- *Advance Security Systems-\$18.33
- *Moison Ace Hardware-\$348.29
- *Ayer Auto Parts-\$127.47
- *ZEP Manufacturing-\$125.51
- *Mobile Consultants-\$10.08
- *Groton Electric Light-\$6.86
- *Groton Electric Light-\$63.69
- *Groton Electric Light-\$238.20
- *Buckley Energy-\$790.59
- *Buckley Energy-\$136.42
- *East Coast Electronics-\$585.00
- *ApparelMaster-\$77.28

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Nashoba Associated Boards of Health – Acting Director James Garreffi

Mr. Garreffi introduced himself to the Board and provided a handout on the Emergency Preparedness Fund proposal for local Boards of Health. He stated that grant money is available for purposes related to regional public health emergency preparedness and response planning. He stated that the

money is to be used to support local Boards of Health in providing resources for the development and expansion of existing infrastructures.

Surrenden Farm – Soil Remediation Plan – Present: See attached

Chairman Horowitz opened the meeting with a prepared statement (attached) and read it into the record.

Chairman Horowitz requested a report from Dr. Susan Sundstrom. Dr. Sundstrom briefly discussed the sampling plan that called for sampling on the lots at different depth intervals. She stated that depending upon the results of the sampling at certain depths, remediation may or may not be warranted. She said that concentrations greater than the health based limit of 20 mg/kg (or 20 ppm) would require remediation.

Dr. Sundstrom responded to the background study that they put together and said it was her opinion that background concentrations did not differ significantly from the risk-based limit and some data suggested that the background was likely to be less. She stated that based on this information, she disagreed with their conclusions that the arsenic concentrations in deeper soil on the site was consistent with background.

Dr. Sundstrom also responded to the Board that there was a possibility that impacted soil from the pilot test had been deposited in an area where the arsenic concentrations were lower. She said that the average concentrations detected in the surface soil samples collected from the areas they scraped off the soil was greater than the average concentrations of arsenic in the soil samples that they collected from the open space where they put the impacted soil.

Representatives from GeoInsight reviewed their conclusions about the background study. Mr. Kevin Trainer stated that they independently reviewed the data and concluded that the concentrations detected in the deeper soil samples were not consistent with background concentrations.

GeoInsight representative Rick Wozmack agreed that all of the consultants for both the town and the applicant should work together to resolve the remediation issues. Member Deuger agreed and stated that no additional work should take place until the sampling plan was voted on.

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Mr. Beals introduced their new Licensed Site Professional, T.J. Stephenson and he presented a computer generated site map using some kriging techniques as an example of some of the new techniques they were looking at. He showed areas where high and low concentrations of arsenic existed. Mr. Stephenson told the Board that they would be using some new tools in the process and assured the Board that they would be working cooperatively with the town Boards and consultants.

Attorney Ruth Silman stated that no samples had been taken since last summer and told the Board that were hundreds taken and submitted for analysis last year. Dr. Horowitz questioned the reliability of the soil sample data taken.

Planning Board Administrator Michelle Collette informed the Board that the applicant had not applied the Hydro-Mulch by the deadline date of February 18, 2004 voted by the Earth Removal Advisory Committee. She stated that the committee met prior to the meeting to set a new deadline of March 18, 2004 for the application.

Planning Board member Joshua Degen stated that there was soil removed from three contaminated lots that not only contained arsenic but other contaminants such as DDT which was moved to another area of the land. He cited a case like this in New Jersey that stated once the soil has been determined to be contaminated, stabilization was required before any removal could occur. He felt that the developer was "blatantly" ignoring the town's requirements. He demanded that the Board of Health require the applicant to remove the contaminated soil from the site.

Ms. Jackie Butler, abutter and resident of the Town of Ayer, spoke about the concerns she has with the contaminated soil. She stated that she has three small children, one with health concerns, and wanted the Board to do everything they could to prevent any harmful exposure to her children from the contaminated soil. The applicant's newest scientific consultant, Joanne Shanklin, attempted to assure the abutters that any hazard exposure is measured over a long period of time and that short term exposure should not be a concern.

Both parties agreed to work together on a sampling plan and reconvene at the Board of Health's March 22, 2004 meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Susan Horowitz
Chairman

Jodi Deuger

Matthew Waterman

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra A. Butcher