

MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED
October 21, 2008
Town Hall, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Board of Health Members Present:

Robert Hanninen, Chairman; Dr. Susan Horowitz

Board of Health Member Absent:

Jason Weber

Others Present:

Debra Butcher

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hanninen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Meeting Minutes:

None Submitted.

Septic Permits Signed/Approved:

None Submitted.

Bills Signed/Approved:

*Airgas-\$29.88

*Global Montello-\$158.73

*Peter Burhoe (transfer station refund-duplicate sticker)-\$47.00

*Poland Springs-\$9.44

*Verizon (SW)-\$18.84

*Verizon Long Distance (SW)-\$.15

*Verizon Wireless-\$12.74

*Verizon Wireless-\$56.44

*E.L. Harvey-\$3,914.76

*Verizon Long Distance (BOH)-\$.03

*Verizon (BOH)-\$36.90

*North Central Regional Solid Waste Cooperative-\$720.00

FY08 Invoices (Funding approved at Fall Town Meeting-October 20, 2008)

*Keith Burchett-\$200 (purchase reimbursement-safety glasses)

*Verizon Wireless-\$69.26

West Groton Sewer Committee Present: George Barringer, George Wheatley, David Melpignano

Mr. Barringer began by thanking the Board for taking the time to meet with his committee and said that they were appointed by the Board of Selectmen. He stated that the meeting was meant to be an informal gathering to provide information his committee has learned from a questionnaire survey sent out to West Groton residents. He stated that he would appreciate

input from the Board of Health in investigating potential needs in order to install a common sewer system in the West Groton village area. The questionnaire was sent out in early summer and responses were collected in September. Once his committee gathers information, his committee would be able to determine whether to go forward or not to present a formal report at the Spring Town Meeting.

Discussion followed concerning the survey data. The Board commented on Question 13 asking residents if they were interested in a sewer system, what would be the maximum they would pay to become connected. The survey indicated that the majority of those who responded indicated \$2-\$5,000 which would realistically be well below what the costs would actually be.

Mr. Barringer explained that he has learned that residents in West Groton were often unaware of the conditions of their subsurface sewage disposal systems. He said that they obviously knew the bedroom count of their homes and land size but did not know how a potential common sewer system might affect them. He reported that many homes in West Groton had older systems (greater than 10 years) and their homes were of modest means.

Mr. Wheatley stated that they investigated potential sites for a sewer system, i.e. Cutler Field and an area behind his home on West Main Street, however, the area behind his home consisted of mostly wetlands and was in the Zone II area.

Member Horowitz stated that she remembered reports generated from Woodard & Curran that recommended that the town go forward with sewer in two major areas of concern – West Groton and Lost Lake. She stated that public education was key in order to pursue this.

Mr. Wheatley questioned who would be the governing authority. Member Horowitz stated it would be the Sewer Commission or possibly a Department of Public Works if created by the town.

Mr. Barringer stated that the concept needed to be sold to the public and felt that Member Horowitz was correct in that education was critical to the process. He recommended that a joint public hearing be scheduled for public input.

Mr. Melpignano stated he reviewed the survey results and it appeared that people were interested but questioned what alternatives were available.

Chairman Hanninen stated the reports from Woodard & Curran would assist the town in determining alternatives (i.e. community systems).

Ms. Butcher stated that a business in West Groton (Clover Farm Market) would greatly benefit from sewer in that their business establishment could increase because there would be no limitations as there are now with an onsite septic system. She stated that they would like to add tables and chairs and expand on their business but can't now due to septic restrictions.

Ms. Butcher presented a letter sent to the Clover Farm Market from Food Inspector Bridgette Braley advising them that seats were not allowed in accordance with their approved sewage disposal system permit. Member Horowitz said that more discussion was needed and requested

to place this on the next Board of Health agenda on November 3, 2008. She asked Ms. Butcher to obtain more information from Ms. Braley and Health Agent Ira Grossman.

Ms. Butcher asked if there were any funding resources available. Mr. Barringer stated that they explored options and found none available.

Mr. Barringer stated that his committee would be meeting with Robert Rafferty of Woodard & Curran and will follow up with the Board of Health again.

The Board agreed to schedule a public meeting on February 2, 2008 at 7:30pm with the West Groton Sewer Committee and request that the Lost Lake Sewer Committee join the discussion as well. The Board asked that the entire evening be devoted to this one agenda item only.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

Tobacco Compliance

Ms. Butcher reported that North Central-Franklin County Tobacco Control Alliance conducted a tobacco youth access check on October 5, 2008 and was pleased to inform the Board that there was 100% compliance from Groton merchants.

Town Manager Mark Haddad

Ms. Butcher stated that she had a meeting scheduled on Wednesday at 11:30 am with the Town Manager and asked if the Board would like to attend if available.

Bruce Dubey

Ms. Butcher reported that Mr. Dubey will be out until Wednesday, October 29, 2008.

Fran's Franks & Things

Ms. Butcher reported that the mobile unit is for sale and has not been in operation according to Health Agent Ira Grossman. She stated that she will keep the Board updated if the situation changes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Members in attendance,

Robert Hanninen, Chairman

Dr. Susan Horowitz

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra A. Butcher