



TOWN OF GROTON  
Board of Health  
173 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 24, 2011**

**Board of Health Members Present:**

Jason Weber, Chairman  
Robert Fleischer, Member  
Dr. Susan Horowitz, Member

**Others Present:**

Nashoba Associated Board of Health Agent Ira Grossman  
Land Use Assistant Dawn Dunbar

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chairman Weber called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Town Hall.

**Permits Signed:**

Robin Hill Road, Lot 19

**Invoices Signed:**

Custom Currier, NABH, Community Healthlink

**Minutes Approved:**

Chairman Weber abstained from the approval process of the following minutes due to his absence from the meetings.

The minutes from December 20, 2010 were accepted as written. All were in favor.

The minutes from January 3, 2011 were accepted as written. All were in favor.

**The Board voted and all were in favor of Dawn Dunbar attending the MHOA/MassDEP Winter Conference on February 24, 2011.**

**15 Whitewood Road**

Present: John Scira, owner

The engineer for Mr. Scira, R. Wilson and Associates, was not present at the start of the meeting. Chairman Weber placed a call into Russ Wilson, who was unaware of the meeting.

The discussion was continued until the next meeting on February 7, 2011 at 7:15pm.

**836 Lowell Road**

Present: Robert Oliva, engineer, David E. Ross and Associates.

Mr. Oliva stated that he was before the Board on behalf of his client Mr. William Blood. He was proposing an upgrade to the septic system which required both Local Upgrade Approvals and Groton BOH Regulations variances.

Mr. Oliva proceeded to show the Board Members a plan and explained that the variances were required because the property was surrounded by wetlands on three sides and a flood plain in the rear.

Member Fleischer asked if there were any reason why the 10 foot from the road proposed variance would be too close to the road or a cause for concern.

Mr. Grossman stated that he had no concerns due to the rock wall along the road and the elevation of the grading.

**Chairman Weber moved to accept the request for variances as written in a letter from David E. Ross Associates, Inc. dated December 10, 2010.**

Chairman Weber then read the following standard conditions:

1. The applicant must submit any proposed change in the above referenced plans to the Board of Health for its review and approval before the change is implemented.
2. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any other permits (including but not limited to) those required by the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Building Inspector, DPW Director, Planning Board, Stormwater Advisory Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. Any construction (or related activity) within 100 ft of a wetland or resource protection area requires approval of the Groton Conservation Commission.
4. It is the applicant's responsibility to insure that the contents of this permit are made known to all contractors who perform work at this site.
5. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Dig Safe prior to the commencement of any work at the site.
6. If the project is not completed, including issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, within 2 years from the date the sewage disposal system permit is issued, it is the responsibility of the applicant to request an extension. The Board of Health may grant extensions for additional time provided that the applicant submits a written request for renewal no later than 30 days prior to expiration of the permit.
7. Any change in use or increased sewage flow is not to be made without prior approval of the Board of Health and any other applicable Board or Commission.
8. The existing 3-bedroom house is to remain a 3-bedroom house with no increase in the number of bedrooms, unless expansion plans are reviewed and approved by the Groton Board of Health.

9. This variance shall not be in effect until a certified copy of a Notice of Decision is recorded at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. Evidence of such recording shall be submitted to the Board of Health by the applicant.

**Member Horowitz seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

**Community Healthlink**

Present: Carolyn Droser, Community Healthlink  
Steve Boczenowski, resident  
Michelle Collette, Land Use Director

Michelle Collette explained to the Board that a resident of Groton had inquired about the mental health services provided by the Town for its residents. Dawn Dunbar conducted extensive research into the services Community Healthlink provided and whether or not the services were being utilized.

Carolyn Droser Director of Outpatient and Rehabilitation Services at Community Healthlink stated to the Board that the services were in fact being utilized. She explained that in 2010, 85 people had employed over 2,000 visits to various programs. She further explained that funds from the Town paid for visits for those without insurance, those in-between insurances and those with high deductibles. These funds also covered those with insurances that cap the number of sessions covered requiring out-of-pocket payment for additional sessions.

Ms. Droser explained that two (2) therapists worked within three (3) Groton public schools meeting with teachers, meeting with students and attending meetings with school administrators and parents as needed. Crisis work was also being done within the schools as well as outreach programs.

Ms. Droser added that Community Healthlink also provides early intervention programs and visits for children ages 0-3 years old for things such as developmental delays.

Ms. Droser stated that Groton residents currently use clinics located in Clinton, Leominster and Fitchburg and that they also have an emergency mobile team that is dispensed 24/7. She added that the emergency services had gone through big changes over the past few years. They are now structured to provide more immediate services. They are able to mobilize to residents' homes and local hospitals such as Nashoba Valley Medical Center and Clinton Hospital.

Chairman Weber asked if Community Healthlink had a presence in the Groton Dunstable Regional High School.

Ms. Droser replied that they currently did not. She explained that in order for Community Healthlink to establish a presence, there would need to be an identified demand.

Steve Boczenowski stated that he had spoken with an adjustment counselor at the high school and this person had said that they (the high school counselors) do call Community Healthlink as needed.

Ms. Droser confirmed this and added that such an interaction would be considered an emergency call for their mobile team. The schools can contact Community Healthlink for an on-site visit at any time.

Michelle Collette stated that she met with the Finance Committee the previous Saturday. She said that the \$6,500 line item for Community Healthlink in the budget had been presented and discussed. She added that the usage and other information provided by Community Healthlink was very helpful.

Steve Boczenowski stated that his initial inquiry was part of his effort to make sure that the community was aware of the mental health services currently available to them. He explained that he had been researching Project Interface, a mental health referral service. Project Interface is a Monday-Friday 9am-5pm helpline. You would call in, speak with someone trained in mental health or a grad student who would know the right questions to ask you and in turn the service would work to find a suitable provider to address your needs.

Steve Boczenowski added that he was working to bring Project Interface into Groton and seven (7) other towns in our area. He said that the cost to bring Project Interface into Groton-Dunstable would be \$14,000 for the first year. He explained that he was in the process of fundraising to cover the costs of the first 2 years. He added that after two (2) years he would ask the towns involved to cover the annual costs of the service.

Member Horowitz asked what Project Interface did differently that Community Healthlink did not already do.

Steve Boczenowski replied that Community Healthlink actually provides the services whereas Project Interface refers to a number of qualified providers.

Michelle Collette stated that mental health is not a one size fits all. She suggested that the Board of Health not make a decision one way or another. She added that the money seemed to be modest in relation to the observed levels of use and that the two organizations offered different types of services.

Chairman Weber agreed with Michelle Collette. He suggested that the Town should remain open-minded about and supportive of Project Interface, adding that without a funding mechanism it may not last beyond the initial two (2) years.

Chairman Weber stated his personal opinion that the BOH should consider covering some of the costs associated with raising community awareness of available mental health services.

Michelle Collette added that Lawrence Academy and Groton School were important schools to reach out to as well as they are a part of the community also.

Chairman Weber suggested that the Board consider writing a memo to the High School principal in an effort to support Community Healthlink.

Member Horowitz thought that it would be nice to reach out to the new superintendent as well. **She moved that the BOH write a memo to the new Groton–Dunstable superintendent as well as the superintendents of all schools attended by Groton residents, including Lawrence Academy and Groton School, in an effort to show support for Community Healthlink and make them aware of their services and their presence in the community.**

**Member Horowitz further moved that after the memo goes out to the schools that the BOH reach out to the local reporters to ask for their support in getting the word out there.**

**Chairman Weber seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

## Old/Other Business

### **Terracon**

Chairman Weber stated that he had reviewed the contract but had some questions with regard to the number of services. He asked if they were coming out quarterly or 3 times a year.

Member Horowitz asked if town counsel had a chance to review.

Michelle Collette replied that town counsel had not responded.

**Member Horowitz made a motion to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Chairman Weber seconded the motion and stated that he could contact Terracon for clarification. All were in favor.**

### **NABH**

Michelle Collette explained to the Board that she had attended the MMA conference the previous Friday and wanted to report to the Board that there are communities within the Commonwealth that are looking into regionalization of their Boards of Health. Nashoba Associated Boards of Health was offered as an exemplary model for the communities of the Commonwealth to learn from. NABH was referred to as the “Gold Standard” and a “true excellence of professional services.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar