



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

BOARD OF HEALTH
Robert J. Fleischer, Chairman
Susan Horowitz, Member
Jason Weber, Member

MINUTES

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 173 Main Street
Members Present: Robert Fleischer, Chairman; Dr. Susan Horowitz, Member; Jason Weber, Member
Remote Participation: None
Others Present: Ira Grossman, Nashoba Associated Board of Health Agent

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fleischer at 7:00 p.m.

66 BOSTON ROAD – Sewer Waiver Discussion

A discussion ensued about possibly entering into a binding agreement with the landowner. Mr. Grossman provided a sample Sewer Connection Agreement for review. The Board agreed to update the sample agreement and present to 66 Boston Road owner, James Cullen.

Member Weber moved to include the following text in the Sewer Connection Agreement:

1. The above-described property shall connect to the Town Center Sewer System prior to occupancy or sale/transfer of said property to any entity other than the current owner(s).
2. The on-site sewage disposal system will be serviced as necessary per any interim measures determined by the Town of Groton Board of Health (the Board). Any terms specified in a Schedule of Municipal Sewer Connection will be strictly adhered to and met. An Enforcement Letter from the Board of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection may shorten or eliminate this waiver period, should the current system endanger the public health or the environment.
3. Prior to occupancy, sale, or a reported or observed failure of the SDS on said property, the property shall connect to the Town Center Sewer System.

Member Horowitz seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

CAMP KALEIDOSCOPE AT GROTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL – Annual Variance Request

Chairman Fleischer inquired if the variance request was the same as previous years. Mr. Grossman said he assumed so, but could not confirm. The variance request would allow one supervisory staff person for every eight campers age six or under.

Member Horowitz moved to accept the variance request for Camp Kaleidoscope at Groton Community School increasing the required staff/camper ratio from 1:5 to 1:8.

Member Weber seconded and the motion carried 3:0

NASHOBA PADDLER RIVER CAMP – Variance Request

The Board discussed the variance request that would allow Nashoba Paddler to offer a portable restroom and hand-washing facilities. The Board agreed that the BOH Assistant, Robin Eibye would request that the variance request letters from both Nashoba Paddler River Camp and Camp Kaleidoscope be signed and dated.

Member Horowitz moved to accept the variance request for Nashoba Paddler River Camp to offer hand-washing facilities at the beginning and end of each day and to provide portable restrooms to be used for emergencies during the course of the day.

Member Weber seconded and the motion carried 3:0

AIRBNB DISCUSSION

Mr. Grossman said he prepared a draft letter as directed and asked the Board if it was something they were interested in sending to homeowners in Groton “hosting” via Airbnb. The Board reviewed the draft letter. Mr. Grossman explained that the state had recently issued guidance stating that homeowners in Massachusetts “hosting” via Airbnb or similar means were subject to both local permitting and MA room taxing requirements.

The Board agreed to send a letter to the known “hosts” from the Town attaching the state’s guidance. Mr. Grossman agreed to draft a cover letter for the Board’s review. The discussion was continued so that the Board would have the draft letter in hand for reference.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Grossman stated that due to a tenant complaint, he conducted an inspection at 19 West Main Street in February, 2016. As a result of this inspection he wrote up a very long list of code violations. Mr. Grossman noted that the property owner lives elsewhere and is trying to sell the property. Mr. Grossman stated the property had a failed septic system, rotted railings, and a number of other safety issues. Mr. Grossman said that due to the violations and the owner’s reluctance to comply, he would like to take the owner, Chad Pimentel to court.

Member Horowitz moved to take the Chad Pimentel, owner of 19 West Main Street to court.

Mr. Weber seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

The Board reviewed the minutes dated March 21, 2016.

Member Weber moved to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2016, as written.

Ms. Horowitz seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE/CONTROL

Mr. Weber said he spoke with Mark Haddad about funding Mosquito Control and Surveillance. Mr. Weber relayed that Mr. Haddad had explained:

1. It was too late to make a change to the Town Meeting warrant
2. Funding may be available via a line item transfer at Town Meeting

Ms. Horowitz said she would follow up with Mr. Haddad to better understand what to expect at Town Meeting.

At 8:15 p.m., Ms. Horowitz moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Weber seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

Respectfully submitted by Executive Assistant, Robin Eibye.