



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

Date: Monday, September 17, 2018
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Electric Light Dept., 23 Station Avenue
Members Present: Robert Fleischer, Chairman; Dr. Susan Horowitz, Member, Jason Weber, Member; Ira Grossman, Nashoba Associated Board of Health Agent
Others Present: Sammie Kul; See Sign in Sheet

Chairman Fleischer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

16 Redskin Trail – Order to Connect to Water System Hearing Request

Amy Keiser and John Wright, the home owners of 16 Redskin Trail received an order to connect to town water. Ira Grossman provided a recap to the Board members. Both a partial and full water test was completed for the property of which copies of the test results were provided to Mr. Grossman. Mr. Grossman has reviewed these and said the test results meet all of the requirements.

Ms. Keiser and Mr. Wright would like to continue using their existing well rather than connect to town water since the water test results do meet all requirements. Being first time homeowners, they expressed concern over the high costs associated with the entire process. They were not informed at the time of purchase that they were required to submit their water quality tests to specific parties and assumed it was forwarded to the appropriate contacts. They were also unaware of the regulations language about properties within 500 ft. of town water systems.

Jason Weber asked Mr. Grossman for his opinion and he stated that he had no objections for the Board to consider allowing the continued use of the well given that there is no leaching system for the property which is served by a "tight tank."

Dr. Susan Horowitz asked Mr. Grossman if there were any steps that can be taken to prevent these types of similar incidences in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the language used in the permit applications. Dr. Horowitz suggested that the Board members revisit this topic at a later time. Robert Fleischer agreed.

Dr. Horowitz confirmed with Mr. Grossman that there were no safety issues.

Ms. Keiser and Mr. Wright inquired about whether a change in regulations would affect their property value. Discussion ensued. Dr. Horowitz stated that the homeowner's safety is the priority here. Mr. Grossman said that it is highly advisable for the homeowners to complete a water quality test on a periodic basis. Mr. Grossman had no further objections.

Jason Weber moved to remove the order. Chairman Fleischer seconded and the motion carried 3:0

The Board encourages that water testing be completed on a periodic basis. Mr. Grossman will send out an updated notice of the decision made.

Lone Lane, Lot # 71 – Discussion of Lot and Water Resources Area

Paul Litchfield is the spokesperson for Burlwood Realty Corporation and has requested to have an informal discussion regarding four of their grandfathered lots on Long Cope Road and Lone Lane. Mr. Litchfield provided site plans for both streets. He was unaware of new regulations that were set up in 2007 with respect to the septic system requirements but is looking to develop at least two of the lots. Although the setbacks will not meet the full requirements they will be closer to meeting the regulations once they combine both lots. Mr. Litchfield is looking to potentially request some type of variance and would like the Board members' thoughts.

Mr. Grossman shared his concerns. One of the lots falls within Zone II which poses a huge issue. Also, there is a piece of land that sits between two of the lots and is owned by the Town of Groton based on the Assessors records. Per regulatory requirements new construction may not be a one bedroom only as it does not meet the minimum code requirements. Discussion ensued regarding which sections were owned by the Town and how this would affect any type of variance request.

Mr. Weber recommended that Mr. Litchfield determine who the appropriate owners for each of the lots were as a starting point. Chairman Fleischer advised that determining who owns the plots in question may not resolve all of the other concerns with his proposal to develop these lots.

Mr. Litchfield will do some research to see if he is able to find out any more information.

11 Juniper Point and 501 Farmers Row – Discussion of Failure to Submit Inspection Reports

Mr. Grossman stated to the Board members that certain items are not being submitted in a timely manner therefore causing an unnecessary outcome.

Dr. Horowitz proposed sending annual reminders to the inspectors and realtors involved in the process. Mr. Grossman stated that inspectors are responsible for forwarding these reports to the Board of Health although currently there is no penalty when they do not. Discussion ensued regarding Title V requirements, inspector responsibilities and possible resolutions to prevent this from occurring. The Board stated that they need to think about this further.

401 Nashua Road – Neighborhood Concerns of the Farm

Mr. Weber collected all health-related concerns from residents and compiled into comprehensive list below:

- Is there a religious exemption outside of the MA exemption?
- Impact on well water and groundwater
- Quality of stream water
- Visuals associated with actual slaughtering event
- Campfire and cooler setup
- Blood disposal
- Conditions of barn / vermin concerns

- Event proximity to Reedy Meadow Brook (approximately 50 ft)
- Number of guests at event (approximately 150)
- Number of vehicles and traffic concerns
- Number of animals slaughtered
- Animals that were taken home
- Animal Treatment
- Welfare of guests attending event
- Lack of inspection, regulation and documentation
- Advertisement of Halal Meat Business
- Processing Compliance within USDA Regulations
- Business Operation at Farm?
- Difficulty of testing water sample
- Content within barrels
- Guest behavior / trash picking
- Timing of animal arrival
- Animals being spray painted with numbers
- Event clean up (odor, disposal of meat leftovers and caucuses, any permit requirements)
- Washing bins from large refrigeration truck near streams
- Use of dumpster for disposal
- Contents of trash bags near horses

Dr. Horowitz stated to residents as this was a religious exemption and they were informed by Town Counsel that the event was allowed to go through. There were no permits or special permits approved as this does not require approval from the Town or Board of Health. Residents argued that regulations do now allow this. Their issues do not lie with the religious exemption but concerns from a public health standpoint. Another resident witnessed the animals being removed from the premises which he does not believe to be permissible.

Mr. Grossman spoke with both the USDA inspector and Department of Public Health. The appropriate contacts have met with the owner and were very clear regarding what is permissible. Exemption is built into regulations for this event.

Contingent upon the findings the Board members and Mr. Grossman may need to discuss these concerns further with the appropriate parties.

Jason Weber moved to continue this discussion at the next Board of Health meeting.

NEW / OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed and signed permits.

Jason Weber moved that with regard to the Haffner's Tobacco Certificate this permit application is complete and that the Board of Health is required to issue the permit. This Board does not endorse the sale of tobacco products, and actively discourages the sale and or use of tobacco products.

Susan Horowitz seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

R Fleischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried 3:0.

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

APPROVED: November 5, 2018

APPROVED



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Jason Weber, Member

SIGN IN SHEET - BOH Meeting - September 17, 2018

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME

PRINT ADDRESS

Paul Litchfield
John Wright
Amy Neiser
Steven Spear
Brian Hancock
Jennifer Hanwek
Victoria Eginanna
Robert Flynn
Deane Kerwin
Frank Birmingham
Sue Birmingham
Troy Fulton
Scott Feenan
Cathy Feenan
Nancy Fleischer

47 Remford St.
Lowell, MA.
16 Redskin Trail Groton MA
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343 Nashua Rd Groton
56 Meadowview Rd Groton
56 Meadowview Rd Groton
50 Overbrook Drive, Groton
425 Nashua Rd Groton, MA
245 Nashua Rd Groton
18 Kirk Farm Groton MA
18 Kirk Farm Rd
74 Meadowview Rd
22 Kirk Farm Rd
22 Kirk Farm Rd
119 Nashua Rd