

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Jason Weber, Chairman

Susan Horowitz, Member

Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Date: Monday, March 16, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall, 173 Main Street

Members Present: Jason Weber, Chairman (By Phone); Dr. Susan Horowitz, Member; Robert J. Fleischer, Member; Ira Grossman, Nashoba Associated Board of Health Agent

Others Present: Sammie Kul

Jason Weber called the Emergency meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**239 Pepperell Road - SEPTIC DESIGN SYSTEM VARIANCE REQUEST**

Ira Grossman presented on behalf of Kevin J. Ritchie of Civil Solutions and property owner Ted Fernald and requested the following variances for 239 Pepperell Road:

1. A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-1.B to allow a septic design in a class I soil with observation holes conducted out of season.
2. A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-1.E.6 to reduce the requisite offset from a reserve leaching area to a road side line from 35 feet to 26 feet.

Mr. Grossman has no objections. The only concern he has is that the upgrade needs to be done in an expedient manner as effluent is currently present. He strongly recommended that they be in compliance by no later than June 1st, 2020.

This property is an existing 2-bedroom home that will be expanded to a 4-bedroom home and is to remain a 4-bedroom home.

**Robert Fleischer moved to accept the variances as presented with a completion date of June 1st, 2020 subject to the following BOH Conditions below:**

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 Select Board, 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 ensure that the contents of this approval 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. For Failed Systems:

Compliance with Title 5 shall be by no later than June 1st, 2020. The applicant must comply with the requirements of Title 5 for a “failed” system pursuant to section 15.305.

1. 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.
2. The existing 2-bedroom house will be expanded into a 4-bedroom house and is to remain a 4-bedroom house with no increase in the number of bedrooms, unless expansion plans are reviewed and approved by the Groton Board of Health.
3. This variance shall not be in effect until the Notice of Board of Health 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.

**Dr. Susan Horowitz seconded and the motion carried.**

**43 Windmill Hill Road - SEPTIC DESIGN SYSTEM VARIANCE REQUEST**

Ira Grossman presented on behalf of Chris MacKenzie of Ducharme & Dillis and property owner Michelle Collette and requested the following variances for 43 Windmill Hill Road:

**Local Regulation Variance:**

1. Section 315-1(E): There must be a minimum of five feet of pervious material between the bottom of the leaching facility and the estimated seasonal high ground water table.

(4-foot separation is proposed)

1. Section 315-6: Leach beds and Pits will be sized at 150% of Title 5 system sizing requirements.

(System size based on 150% of the required system size from the Presby system design manual for a 5 bedroom house with a 13 m/I percolation rate is proposed)

Ira Grossman has no objections.

**Dr. Susan Horowitz moved to accept the variances as presented subject to the following BOH Standard Conditions below:**

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 Select Board, 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 ensure that the contents of this approval 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. For Failed Systems:

Compliance with Title 5 shall be within 2 years from the date of the sewage disposal system failure unless otherwise ordered to “upgrade” at a sooner date. The applicant must comply with the requirements of Title 5 for a “failed” system pursuant to section 15.305.

1. 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.
2. The existing 5-bedroom two family house is to remain a 5-bedroom two family house with no increase in the number of bedrooms, unless expansion plans are reviewed and approved by the Groton Board of Health.
3. This variance shall not be in effect until the Notice of Board of Health 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.

**Robert Fleischer seconded and the motion carried.**

**INVOICES**

Board members reviewed and signed variances, permits and invoices.

**Dr. Susan Horowitz moved to approve the septic permits for new construction for Lots 3A and 14A on Cherry Tree Lane. Robert Fleischer seconded and the motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION OF COVID 19 VIRUS**

The Board of Health has been receiving inquiries about how preschools and daycares should proceed with regard to capacity and closures.

The general issue is in regards to the aggregation of people that are not covered under the government’s order that was given on March 15th, 2020.

Brief discussion ensued.

The Board asked Ira Grossman to reach out to all daycares in Groton and inquire about how many individuals are at the facility including the number of staff. Mr. Grossman suggested that the Board recommend to daycares to limit the total number of individuals at each facility to a specific number. The overall goal is to break the chain of contact of people and it is better to take as much precaution as possible.

**Robert Fleischer moved that it is a recommendation of the Groton Board of Health that daycare operations be limited to 10 persons total including staff during this response to the COVID 19 emergency situation. Dr. Susan Horowitz seconded and the motion carried.**

This is not intended to serve as a mandatory course of action but a recommendation by the Board to help flatten the curve and be pro-active in order to stay ahead.

The Board will schedule any further emergency meetings as necessary.

The Emergency Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

**APPROVED: April 9, 2020**