

**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, June 1st, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Others Present: Daniel B. Wolfe of David E. Ross Associates, Inc.; Sanford Leavenworth; George Dimakarakos of Stamski and McNary, Inc.; Bruce Wheeler of Academy Hill; Russell Arena; Stephen Gentile; Mahender Singh

Jason Weber called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**244 NASHUA ROAD**

3 bedrooms

LISTED AS STUDY; boh will determine if it’s a bedroom

REFER TO RECORDING

Bob – why 3 not 4?

Ig – applicant chose to stay at 3-bedroom upgrade vs. 4-bedroom new construction; doesn’t meet full compliance with going to 4 bedrooms; boh & title 5 requirements

Corey – 3 to 4 requires full reserve area; 3 bedrooms was already sufficient for their purposes / plans

Bob – worried about what future owners may do

Ig – not designed for a 4 bedroom; corey – we don’t control the future or what people will try to do

Jason – bathroom in attic? Corey – designed house plan; potential was there but wasn’t actually planning on it; not sure if builder will put bathroom in there or not

Corey – roughing something new construction – wanna do something that’s beneficial for the future

Ig – still meets requirements (ceiling height, square footage, privacy etc.)

C – study / office is good in any house plans

Bob has concerns – corey said house plan was already designed prior to septic stuff / requirements

Bob – deed restriction discourages it but doesn’t outright ban it

Mike joined

Ig – no objection if you want to do the Deed Restriction; on record that it’s a 3 bedroom – can’t be sold as anything other than that

Bob moved that we accept the deed restriction for 3 bedrooms for 244 Nashua Rd; Susan second.

Name of the owner at the time of the decision aka the seller

FOLLOW UP WITH COREY / MIKE SHEEHAN

Bob – nay; jason yay

Bob asked if Can be used as a bedroom – any difference in septic design of 3 vs. 4? Ig – slight size difference; super tempting thing for someone to use it as…

**99 SHIRDI WAY (NESSP TEMPLE) – NOISE DISCUSSION FOLLOW UP**

Jason – learned about 3 options in doing something; order of magnitude; range

Jason provided recap; possible sources of funding

Mahender -

How many different ideas for funding one or more of these options

Jason – community fundraiser –

Grants available? State or federal level

Grants available for service projects related to this organization

Reach out to schools that teach mechanical contracting – see if there’s some way to fix this for free or close to it

Mahender – check audio; see which option is least cost? Temple is currently closed to public; donations have dried up as a result; can pay bill monthly; not financially in a position to…check audio

Jason - Temple pays for it all; homeowner pays for it all; parties split it

Grants? Community based grants? Gov? fed based? Jason doesn’t know

RUSS – parish – non denomination; there’s a Lillian grant but it deals with education of priests and/or etc.; but may not qualify into that; nothing else fell into this category

STEPHEN – timeline needs to be extended due to COVID. Refer to audio. Hoping that temple would agree to address our concerns w/sound attenuator. Redirecting exhaust might be another option. Hoping for the temple to take the majority.

Temple re opening plus 6 months that we could get this done.

Jason – goal for tonight was to come up w/options.

Jason – has noise & odor has reduced? Neighbors – yes, 100% bc it’s closed now

Jason – continue this again – I have no magic; converge on a solution that we can all live with.

For our next meeting – ask someone from each side of the debate to put together 3 concrete ideas for actually getting this done. One of them should be bad from your perspective ie. You the neighbors pay for the whole thing

$50K FOR REMEDIATION; what’s the best idea you can come up with – probably involves some type of debt instrument

Mahender – has comments – refer to audio; why don’t we finalize here? $50K is out of our reach

Stephen – 40 or 50K is out of the option

Jason – adjustment to the assignment – 3 ideas one of which is bad; limit this to the first two pieces; exhaust & sound attenuator

Mahender – moving the duct doesn’t do anything; refer to audio

Jason – hw is for you folks to go back and spend some time thinking through some options and maybe talk to each other if you’re comfortable; 3 options as a GROUP for funding $12K investment.

Russ – it’s a start to cut the noise down; 50% of the issue; whether that cuts down on the odor; we don’t know; we’d have to get the #’s; if we just do the redirection. Refer to audio for quotes; if we combine them; would need to get info from contractor

Mahender – depending on which way the wind blows

Is there a way to do both and get synergy?

Mahender – discuss costs

Russ – not trying to run down their money; cost effective

Jason – nonprofit org.; reach out to manufacturer of both devices and find out if that company has service components to business plan or mission statement; has any sort of service or program for greatly reducing cost of device or provide it as a donation; taxable gift?

Jason – find out at next meeting; continue this to the next meeting; can opt out though. Do these organizations have programs? Reach out to top 3 manufacturers; mr. boyle contractor; any charitable programs

Russ – asked for mr. doyle’s info

Mahender – we can talk to mr. doyle / boyle

Town of Groton – pay for it?

Reach out to Town manager

Jason – think through for achieving the goals

**SPRING TOWN MEETING**

Jason Kauppi – whether or not you feel public is safe enough to attend town meeting; outdoors; mask; social distancing etc.

Postpone?

Indiv opinions is fine

Ig - #s have been trending down or holding steady

Any concerns with outdoor election? Ig – positive proposed; outdoor is better; sanitizer; masks

Following all recommendations

Bob – the proposal sounds very thorough; wireless mics all around; any further postponement – 30 days won’t make any difference, at least marginally

It’s pretty close to the town meeting

Jason Kauppi – if it rains, we would move it to the next day – Sunday at 1pm; it’ll be shorter than a regular meeting; about an hour

Susan – does ig have any input on what’s happening in the state for town meeting?

Ig – state’s involvement and interest is the heart of the local level; variable from town to town; most of them are going for town meeting very shortly; next 2 weeks or so; trying to do it outdoors

They’re all scheduled for the next couple of weeks from my understanding

Susan – if most of the other town are going ahead then susan is not in a position to hear about how many people in those towns have the disease; if things are relatively stable from my impression of where things are, if we had an outdoor meeting I’m not lookin at it being a huge problem

Bob – some people will not come for concern of their health; not sure if all clear will happen

Ig – taking advantage of everything available

Jason – personally would vote for moving forward for outside option; auto cancel if there’s a big kill switch in # of cases; hard to know what the right threshold would be; what is a reasonable way to say it

Want gov to move fwd obviously but what you need to see

Ig – spike whether 10 or 20% - can use nuclear option – boh has ability to make proclamation to stop order of disease

Jason k – has authority to postpone anytime public health was an issue; if boh comes to him he can postpone it; if there was a change wouldn’t have any hesitancy in postponing it

“nuclear option”

Kauppi – if this is not advisable will take the necessary steps

Jason would vote for moving forward with it

Kauppi – confirmed that would know if there is a spike

Ig – daily one is what he gets

Kauppi – need to ocmmunicate if we’re moving fwd

Jason – would vote for moving fwd

Kauppi – children? Can someone bring a child? Would that be allowed? Sounds okay to him; refer to audio

Bob – 1 child is okay; multiple can get out of hand

Kauppi - Voter card – raised hands – it’s okay if people are spread around

Susan – not a lot of other ways to get it done; camp counselor but doesn’t see it in the cards; not appropriate for covid world

MIKE B – Election

Town meeting – good

Election – much less flex. 6/9 under state law; ‘nuclear option’?

Before June 30th; and since it’s after may 30th there is no flexibility to change it at this point

Safety plan

Election workers – face shield; wear masks; sanitize booths; one pen per user

Reduced # of staff

6 ft apart – go to table, exit

Can I require voters entering a public building to wear a mask?

Ig – can ask them to do it; can’t ask them what that condition is; assign special location for non-mask users

Provisional ballots an option for refusal ones? Jason asked. Mb – not typical but that’s his plan

Reason being covid concern; seems fair to boh

Bob – those ballots would be counted for sure? Mb – yes

Would count it the next day instead of that day

Bob – handicap voter – auto marker

Keyboard device / touch screen – would sanitize it b/t uses

Limit polling booth cells

5 or 6 at country club; 10 – 12 ft

3 people voting at a time at town hall

Enter through front and leave through back; same at other voting center

Boh – sounds good

Mb – buy election workers dinner – question should I do that? Filhoes;

Ig – s/b indiv meals; not family style

Person can be prepared if someone is distributing it; everything should be single use; disposable

Bob – eating in the building? Prob at their station per mb; give it as a parting gift instead

Also limited poll hours

Wanna limit people moving around

Check audio

Sounds good enough; ig – well thought out plan; good job

MINS – 5/4; bob moved as edited; susan seconded; all in favor

5/18 – bob moved as edited; susan seconded; all in favor

**Robert Fleischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 to jt zoom meeting w/sb; jason seconded p.m. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

HAZEL GROVE -