

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Jason Weber, Chairman

Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Date: Monday, October 5th, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Others Present: Stephen E. Poole, Lakeview Engineering Associates; William Dawes; Kevin Ritchie, Civil Solutions; Bill Strickland; Staci Missaggia and Steve Catalano, Catalano Companies; Daniel Wolfe, David E. Ross Associates

Jason Weber called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**116 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD – Septic Design System Variance Request**

Stephen E. Poole of Lakeview Engineering Associates presented on behalf of their client, William Dawes and requested the following variances for 116 Schoolhouse Road:

TOWN OF GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS:

Section 315-1: Testing Requirements

B. Waive the requirement for Soil Testing in March or April and allow the SAS area to be designed based on soil mottling criteria.

Section 315-3: Design Requirements

1. Waive the requirement for the system profile to be drawn to the required scale and allow a “Not to Scale” profile due to the length of the system; and

C. Waive the requirement for a stamped property plan of the site and allow property lines as developed from property deeds, due to the system not being close to any property line and the expense of a property survey.

Mr. Poole provided brief overview of proposed septic plans. This would be a repair to an existing system and there are no changes being made to the house.

Brief discussion ensued. There was further clarification needed regarding whether the plans showed one or two separate parcels and whether this matched the Assessors records.

Ira Grossman has no objections to the out of season testing but informed both Mr. Poole and Mr. Dawes that the plans being reviewed needed to contain a profile to scale as well as a legal reference to the lot lines and a professional land surveyor stamp.

The Board members asked that the applicant check with the Assessors first regarding whether this parcel was listed as one or two lots. This would need to be resolved before the Board members can make any decisions regarding the septic variances being requested.

Mr. Dawes agreed with this and will reach out to the Assessor’s Office tomorrow. He does not believe the two parcels have been combined since the last time he spoke with the Assessors but will check on the status and next course of action to get this resolved.

Mr. Dawes’ neighbor was present and in attendance to express support of the proposed plans.

**Robert Fleischer moved to continue this discussion for 116 Schoolhouse Road to the next Board of Health meeting. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

**210 HEMLOCK PARK DRIVE – Septic Design System Variance Request**

Kevin Ritchie of Civil Solutions presented on behalf of their client, Mr. Bill Strickland and requested the following variances for 210 Hemlock Park Drive:

1) A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-1.E to reduce the requisite groundwater offset from 5 feet to 3 feet with the use of the Presby Enviro-Septic Wastewater Treatment System, which provides enhanced treatment.

2) A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-6 to allow the design of a leaching field with less than 150% of Title V requirements.

3) A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-1.B to allow an upgrade design in a class I soil with observation holes conducted out of season.

Mr. Ritchie provided an overview of the proposed plans.

Ira Grossman has no objections and confirmed that the proposed system is larger than a standard Presby system.

**Robert Fleischer 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 4-bedroom house 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.

**Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

**1 & 3 FORGE VILLAGE ROAD – Order to Connect to Town Water and Sewer**

Staci Missaggia and Steve Catalano of Catalano Companies were present for the continuation discussion from the previous Board of Health meeting regarding hooking up this property to Town Sewer.

Mr. Catalano informed members that he met with Bob Black last week and they had an engineer come out on Friday to do the drawings and get everything all set. They are hoping to have everything done by the end of November and will forward a more definitive timeline once it is available.

Ira Grossman has no objections to this.

Robert Fleischer asked whether the work would cause any road opening issues. Mr. Grossman replied that it should not be an issue as this is private property and the stubs are expected to be brought onto the property. Mr. Catalano can confirm with Mr. Black regarding the location of the stubs.

Board members asked that Mr. Catalano forward any plans or updates for review. This will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the first meeting in November to check in on the progress.

**Robert Fleischer moved to continue this discussion for 1 & 3 Forge Village Road to the first Board of Health meeting in November. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

**HALLOWEEN 2020 – Discussion of Recommendation to Select Board**

Board members reviewed CDC guidelines provided for Halloween. Brief discussion ensued.

Traditional trick or treating from door to door is categorized as a high-risk activity therefore the Board does not recommend this. There are other forms of contactless Halloween activities that may be done safely provided that participants follow the CDC guidelines and take all of the necessary precautions.

**Robert Fleischer moved to provide the Select Board with the memo below and issue this as the Board of Health’s statement with respect to Halloween 2020. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

*On September 21st, 2020 the Groton Board of Health (Board) discussed the potential ramifications of COVID 19 and traditional Halloween activities.*

*The Board made the following suggestions based on the current information available:*

*1) Traditional trick or treating from door to door should be curtailed;*

*2) Since the CDC does not recommend wearing a costume mask in place of a face covering, we further suggest the person to persons contact and gatherings be either eliminated or completely organized and controlled to ensure physical distancing;*

*3) Indoor gatherings are limited to current MA Department of Public Health’s guidelines;*

*4) Outdoor gatherings if contemplated should be organized and supervised, limited in the numbers gathered, those attending should be from the local area only and food and candy should be pre-packaged and be as “touchless” as practical;*

*5) Follow CDC’s “Halloween activity guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”*

*(*[*https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween*](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween)*);*

*6) With respect to Halloween displays that are a neighborhood attraction, it is recommended that viewing be by car only and traffic patterns be regulated; no walk abouts or block parties.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes dated July 6th, 2020. Jason Weber made a few grammatical edits.

**Robert Fleischer moved to accept the meeting minutes as amended dated July 6th, 2020. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

**NEW / OLD BUSINESS**

Dan Wolfe of David E. Ross Associates was present and had a few questions regarding the Title 5 requirements for new construction. Mr. Wolfe is asking for clarification regarding a specific policy to help determine how he should proceed with the design plans for an existing project.

Brief discussion ensued regarding structural details of the parcel and proposed plans for the septic.

Board members would like to look into this further and asked to add this topic to the agenda for the next Board of Health for further discussion. If the current timeframe is creating for an undue hardship for the applicant then the Board members can schedule for an emergency meeting to address this sooner. However, any changes to the Board’s regulations will require as much notice as possible to the public for their input.

**EMERGENCY DISPENSING SITE (EDS) SET UP DRILL**

Ira Grossman was asked to remind Board members about scheduling the next Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Set Up Drill. Brief discussion ensued regarding whether the Flu Clinic on October 20th, 2020 was an option. However, this is being held at the Groton Senior Center and is not the same site as the Emergency Dispensing Site used for the practice drill. Mr. Grossman will revert these questions back to the organizer.

**PERMITS AND INVOICES**

The Board reviewed and approved the two invoices below for processing:

* The Groton Herald 9/25/2020 $90.00
* Verizon Wireless 9/22/2020 $102.98

**17 STONECLEAVE LANE - Board of Health Variance Decision Notice**

Jason Weber spoke to the attorney who assisted with fulfilling the document recording requirements for the variance approval for 17 Stonecleave Lane.

Brief discussion ensued regarding how to handle the Board of Health Decision Notice not being included as part of the mailing for recording.

Board members would like to emphasize this incident is not to be leveraged as a precedence.

**Robert Fleischer moved to grant a variance to the immediate requirement of filing the Board of Health Decision Notice before the sale of the home and deferring it as such that the Board of Health Decision Notice will be filed at the time of closing at the same time that the other documents are being filed.**

**Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

**Robert Fleischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Jason Weber seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

**APPROVED: November 2, 2020**