

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Jason Weber, Chairman

Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Michelle Collette, Member

Date: Monday, February 1st, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Others Present: Mark Haddad; John Giger; Alison Manugian

Jason Weber called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**DISCUSS WHETHER OR NOT TO BAN USE OF POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS**

Polystyrene – ban? Can SB help with anything? Initiative that John Giger started

John Giger 8/1/2019 – last communication

Thin plastic bags

John put together 1st draft for plastic bags? Unhealthy risk w/use of polystyrene (Styrofoam)

Mark at that time seemed to agree

Belonged to BOH bc it contained food service

Checking in w/BOH to see where we are with this since it’s been a while

Need to let SB know; this is in BOH’s jurisdiction

Generate proposed bylaw to STM

Michelle was working with others around the bags; john giger had been collecting info about the polystyrene

Bob – support polystyrene ban – it’s not recyclable; not entirely sure of health considerations

What will get used instead? One of Bob’s concerns – alternative may have had health impacts

MICHELLE – as John said, in support of ban

Surprise no action taken on it yet

Covid pandemic – takeout

Paper or cardboard

Packages from amazon – if you order something from there – does it go to the transfer station?

Doing HW, motion or no motion for next meeting? Since bob has not spent time on this

Deadline to submit warrant articles 2/26

Could we put placeholder in on warrant?

Bob not against idea of banning packaging; just haven’t done much HW on it

Obviously not making a final decision today

Draft regulations sent out in other towns; GBOH also sent out questionnaire / feeler to local businesses to gather feedback, opinion and check on inventory amount of containers

1 or maybe 2 restaurant / food service people responded – neither had any real objection to it

Jason’s concerns were inventory; this stuff is a known carcinogen

We shouldn’t just do this on the spot though

Jason – schedule special meeting prior to deadline

Bob … give them 6 months or something to get rid of existing inventory / or whatever ban BOH puts in place?

If we put a placeholder in, then if we have a further discussion in a month can we make tweaks to placeholder?

Mh – if BOH requests placeholder then essentially alerting sb of intention to put in placeholder warrant prior to the deadline of 2/26, before 3/15 – when public hearing takes place for warrant articles

March 1st –

OR SPECIAL MEETING

Mark agrees w/bob to address concern of business owners and inventory

Set it off for 6 months; jg – didn’t go until 1/1/2021 bc deadline was extended

Jason – off cycle meeting on Tuesday, 2/16/2021

Do double checking, research etc.

Bob – CAN INCLUDE SAMPLE BYLAW – can send these to the Groton Select Board

Details, health risk, would wanna re read sample bylaws again

Not just health issues but governance issues; how do we implement this type of thing?

Jon giger – town of westford has bylaw in place; adopted at their annual town meeting in 2016

Mc would support meeting on Tuesday, 2/16/21 – do additional research

Mc feels the way the Select Board rolled out the single use plastic bags could serve as a model

SET UP ZOOM MEETING FOR TUESDAY, 2/16/2021 at 7PM

Real all material IG sent, thoughts IG rolled out

Mark Haddad – NABH is limited to what they’re getting from the state and do the best we can; 17 vaccines for our population; COA

Jason asked about website updates. Control through the IT Dept – website updates

Provide URL to the town and post it on the GBOH website – Mark fine with that

CHECK AUDIO FOR DISCUSSION BEFORE 7PM

IG - State asking for a list

16% national increase

**9 TAVERN ROAD – Discussion of Deed Restriction Notice**

Dave bought a home; similar

2-bedroom deed restriction

Dave – house is smaller

Confirmed this will be a 2-bedroom deed restriction

Ig has no objections to it

Impossible to do 3-bedroom?

MC – very meaningful improvement to what’s there today

Has no problem w/2-bedroom deed restriction

Bob moved that we accept 2-bedroom deed restriction for 9 Tavern Rd.

Mc seconded; all in favor

**37 BOATHOUSE ROAD – Discussion of Property Agreement and Proposed Changes to Floor Plan**

9/8/2021 -

Bryan and Marcia Gannon were present; signed a P&S Agreement for 37 Boathouse Road.

P&S is contingent upon adding additional square footage.

Bryan – falling in the lake; 1,050 square ft.

Looking to put a 2nd floor on the house; house is a tear down and falling into the lake

But there is a Restrictive covenant in 2009 – states no increase in square footage

Wants to add 2nd floor; looking to have that released so Mr. Gannon add a 2nd floor; was never a house – store / boat rental company in 1930’s – converted to residence – bedrooms are really small; shared photos with BOH members; restrictive covenant is w/BOH

Boh placed this restriction on these types of properties that are in sensitive areas and present potential public health risk; often done with lake properties to ensure / extra form of mechanism to prevent large septic flow; trying to avoid large septic flow

Fairly new septic system; COC from 2010

Bryan showed photos; Bryan’s a builder; wants to tear it down; unique property and planning to live there personally

Not salvageable

Brian’s Proposed: Maintain 2 bedrooms; build an office; leave office open; no closets, no doors, no walls

Jason – footprint – 4 or 5 corners – add another floor; more square footage?

1ST floor is the actual footprint

2nd floor – make a bigger bathroom; better laundry area; 1st floor would stay the same

Use some of the foundation – has contacted a structural engineer; doesn’t want to get too far into this monetarily if this doesn’t get approved

BOB – hasn’t been involved with too many times when boh placed a restriction on the square footage

Mc – 2 bedrooms – approved for in 2010

IG – leaching area; local upgrade approvals done for it

Extremely sensitive location –

Covenant – deed restriction

Jason – determine current state of that system

Ig – would have to have a title 5 inspection

Ig – square footage could include considerations for encroaching on diff. parts of the septic system

2-bedroom deed restriction – sees no issue w/this

Removal of the square footage from the covenant

Jason – the removal of the clause regarding the square footage

Michelle – existing house is uninhabitable

Bob – sensitive location

Keeping square footage restriction; increasing it though

Bryan – 2,300 square footage as proposed?

Bob – percentage extra; bryan – as much as possible

IG – going to ZBA? Nonconforming lot per IG

Mc move that the boh modify the existing square footage restriction to allow construction of 2,400 square ft of habitable space; bob seconded

All in favor

Jason told Mr. Gannon to return to the Board if for some reason 2,400 number does not work out

IG RE NEXT STEPS, LEGALLY SINCE P&S

Will have evidence and can provide proof

IG - THE WAY BOH VOTED IG CAN HANDLE IT FOR YOU

9/8/2021 -

Property is not in their name yet

IG – Mr. Gannon needs to go to them (sellers?) with a new Covenant

Mr. Gannon said he can write a letter stating that this request was approved and submit along with plans

**275 CHERRY TREE LANE – Variance Request to Board of Health Code *410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets***

Ig – certain minimum requirements

Building allows for artificial lighting

Request – to turn the basement into a living room, family room whatever you want to call it

Doesn’t have window space required for amount of square footage

Ig – very infrequent – window wells, or slideouts; happens but very rare

If you grant the variance it would have to go to the registry of deeds

OR they can put in window wells

With natural light don’t have to count on artificial means

Pros and cons for both

Caught b/t 2 different codes

Mr. Kramer – have 2 pretty big windows

Install additional windows w/o breaking the foundation

Bob asked question

Ig – they offer artificial lighting

There will be additional air…proper air exchange

Either way it works

Bob moved that we grant the var request re habitable rooms / kitchen for 275 cherry tree lane as requested in the letter / email dated 1/8/2021

410.250a – transparent

86 sq ft to 16 sq ft

Bob – building codes has adequate provisions for ventilation and lights

Michelle seconded; all in favor

**JOHNSON’S RESTAURANT AND DAIRY BAR – Discussion of Compliance with Face Mask Regulations**

Workers, chefs not wearing face masks

Ig – can do written warnings – procedural docs

Ig recommends they do a written warning

Mc – enforcement order?

Next step would be an enforcement order; levy individual fines; $300 fines – up to

Bob – warning right now but would want him to talk to us

Jason – BOTH – goal is not to fine and make life harder for local business; try and… there needs to be compliance in food service sector

Help people do the right thing

Helpful tips, tricks, hints

Not really one on one w/food service establishments; can check with Bridgette

Bob – cook / chef

Manager / owner

Michelle asked question; wearing masks is very important public health requirement

We should send them a warning re public health issue

Deadline to submit a plan

In time for next meeting

Michelle would rather see them comply

One thing is the letter; have them come in also?

Bob would like to talk to them first; not excusing anyone but conversation is always encouraged

Mc – is this a common compliance issue in other industries

Mc moved that we send johnsons a warning requesting a plan for compliance submitted to gboh no later than 2/16/21; remind them of the gov and cdc’s requirements

Bob second; and remind them they are more than welcomed to attend next meeting

All in favor

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION OF PFAS**

Tom wanted public outreach – re pfas

We already have ban on organic matter

Mc – extend moratorium – regulatory advice from drinking water supply

Ig – more important one was outreach

Ban was extended

**Robert Fleischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.