

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Robert J. Fleischer, Chairman

Michelle Collette, Member

Evan Thackaberry, Member

Date: Monday, November 15th, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall

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

Others Present: Kenneth and Elizabeth Breeman, Timothy Dailey, John Amaral and Tricia Tompkins

**Robert Fleischer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**173 GRATUITY ROAD – Discussion of Proposed Plans for Garage Addition**

Kenneth and Elizabeth Breeman, property owners of 173 Gratuity Road, were present and provided overview of the proposed plans for their garage addition.

The workroom within the garage will be used as a clay art studio for Ms. Breeman. Any tools used, clay debris or residue will be cleaned in a separate bucket of water in which the water is left to evaporate. No ceramics will be disposed of in or near a sink drain. Ms. Breeman is an art teacher who studied art and said she is very familiar with the proper methods of safely handling the materials being used in addition to how to dispose of them. Only acrylics are being used and there are no oil paints.

Mr. Breeman informed Board members that the car lift in the garage will be used for swapping out his tires seasonally.

Brief discussion ensued regarding how to include any conditional approvals so that it shows up as part of the public record for this property for any future owners.

**Michelle Collette moved to recommend that our Board of Health agent sign off on the Building Permit for the property modifications at 173 Gratuity Road with the understanding that an amendment to the existing Sewage Disposal System is required and that the issues regarding the use in the garage and the potential impact on the Sewage Disposal System will be considered as part of the Building Permit.**

**Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

Ira Grossman will include notes on the Septic Permit for the intended uses as well as comments in Viewpoint.

**491 TOWNSEND ROAD – Variance Request to State Sanitary Code 410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets**

Timothy Dailey was present and requested a variance to the State Sanitary Code *410.250 Habitable Rooms Other Than Kitchen-Natural Light and Electrical Outlets* for his property at 491 Townsend Road.

Mr. Dailey provided an overview of the proposed plans for their basement. They are looking to finish the single space and turn it into a theater and exercise room. There is currently one small window in the space.

Ira Grossman has no objections.

**Michelle Collette moved to grant the variances as presented for 491 Townsend Road to the State Sanitary Code *410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets* as described in the letter dated November 9th, 2021 and that the Board of Health Decision Notice be recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds prior to the issuance of the Building Permit.**

**Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes dated November 1st, 2021.

**Michelle Collette moved to accept the meeting minutes dated November 1st, 2021. Robert Fleischer seconded and the motion carried with Evan Thackaberry abstaining.**

**PERMITS**

Board members reviewed and signed permits.

**PROVIDE RESPONSE TO SELECT BOARD’S INQUIRY REGARDING MASK MANDATE**

At the Select Board meeting on November 1st, 2021, the Select Board discussed their mask mandate (the Board requires masks to be worn in all municipal buildings) and what criteria they will utilize to determine when they would lift the mandate. The Town Manager proposed to the Select Board that they remove the mandate when the Town hits a rolling average of under 20 cases over a 14-day period. The Select Board would like to receive input from the Board of Health on whether they support these criteria, or if there are other factors that the Select Board should consider.

Brief discussion ensued regarding rising number of COVID cases. Board members are not comfortable recommending any changes to the current policy that is in place at the present time.

John Amaral and Tricia Tompkins from the Groton Inn were present. They were uncertain as to whether tonight’s agenda item applied to all businesses in town. Board members informed them that the Select Board was only asking for a recommendation (if any) related to changing the current mask mandate for public buildings in town. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Amaral and Ms. Tompkins have been taking all of the necessary precautions to ensure their customers’ safety and thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

**Evan Thackaberry moved that this Board recommend that the mask mandate stay in place for now until at least the end of January 2022 and that the criteria for removal of the mask mandate be something that this Board should discuss a little further; that the current guidance be added to the Board of Health webpage; and that the Select Board provide clarification with regard to the requirement that members of all Boards and Committees be required to wear a mask during any public meetings.**

**Michelle Collette moved to amend the motion to specify the date being proposed to January 31st, 2022.**

**Michelle Collette seconded and the amended motion carried.**

**Michelle Collette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

**APPROVED: December 6, 2021**