

**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, January 3rd, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

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

Others Present: John Amaral and Tricia Tompkins

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

**Gratuity Road (Parcel ID 216-31-0) – Septic Design System Variance Request**

Jack present; rep Brian Stanton

Out of season per TOG regs

Timing issue – would like to get started on the project soon

MC – question re flood plain

100-year flood plain

Climate change

IG – needs to see condo docs

Jack – 2 separate septic tanks

IG – needs to include what they’re responsible for and depict where they are (?)

BOB – if septic system gets flooded is that okay? IG – it’s not okay but it happens and they do recover

MC moved to grant variance for lot located at gratuity road as requested by applicant brian Stanton

Evan seconded.

All in favor

**56 Throne Hill Road – Continuation of Variance Request to State Sanitary Code 410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets and Discussion of Deed Restriction Notice**

Adam present

No mechanical ventilation – forced hot water and not forced hot air

Adam identified ventilation fan

IG – saw revised request and meets requirement as stated; no objections

Evan moved to grant the variance to … letter dated …

MC seconded; all in favor

TALK TO ADAM RE ARRANGEMENT OF SIGNING DEED RESTRICTION

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

Assign Authorized Signer for Invoices

Mc moved to assign Bob to serve as authorized signer (or who ever current Chair is)

Evan seconded; all in favor

Landfill mc moved; evan 2nd

VERIZON – evan moved; mc 2nd

**DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING A TOWN-WIDE MASK MANDATE FOR ALL INDOOR ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

BOB – don’t want us overlapping or superseding function in town already operating under mask rule

John Amaral and Tricia Tompkins – when customers feel safe they give us good ratings

John Amaral – prudent thing; adhere to gov baker’s advisory

Tricia – staff mask mandate on their own; want to make sure guests and staff are safe

John and Tricia are open to it and support your decision

John – will communicate on our website if there is a mandate

Steve Stark – not sure it actually helps; doesn’t see it in the numbers

Tom Fitzpatrick – Whistlepost Lane – if people want to wear masks that’s fine; but what data is BOH using – TOG relative to other towns

EVAN – comparing rates across town is not a valid way to assess whether masks work or not; prevent spread respiratory diseases

Understanding that we’re reducing risk by implementing the mask

Tom Fitzpatrick – why not sufficient to allow businesses to choose their own policies

Brief discussion

MC – omicron contagious

Brian Leblanc – member of the School Committee; safety is paramount; no need to put masks on everyone; look out for yourself

MC – schools have own policies; something we can all do to protect each other; it’s another measure to put in place to protect our community

BOB – decision at the end of this meeting?

John Amaral – will the mask mandate – be on the town website?

Revisit this in a month

**Evan Thackaberry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.