

**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, May 16th, 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: Kevin Ritchie, Civil Solutions; James Seidewand; Catherine Pauly; Nicholas Pauling, Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc.

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

**50 VALLIRIA DRIVE – Septic Design System Variance Request**

Kevin Ritchie of Civil Solutions, Inc. presented on behalf of his client, James Seidewand and requested the following variances for 50 Valliria Drive:

1) A variance is hereby requested from Groton Board of Health Regulation 315-5.A to reduce the requisite offset from a reserve leaching area to a wetland from 100 feet to 75 feet.

Property owner would like to install a new septic system for existing 4-bedroom house to accommodate for 5-bedrooms as they will building an addition onto the house.

Ira Grossman has no objections to the proposed plans.

**Michelle Collette moved to accept the variances as presented for 50 Valliria Drive in the letter dated May 4th, 2022 subject to the 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 being converted to a 5-bedroom house is to remain a 5-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.

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

**INVOICES**

Board members reviewed the invoice below:

1. Verizon Invoice Date: 4/22/2022 $41.99

**Evan Thackaberry moved to approve the Verizon Wireless invoice dated 4/22/2022 for payment. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.**

Robert Fleischer the authorized signer for the Board will stop by the office this week to provide his signature.

**42 FOREST DRIVE – Variance Request to State Sanitary Code *410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets***

Catherine Pauly property owner of 42 Forest Drive was present and provided brief overview of proposed plans to basement. They would like to add an in-home gym, kids play area and half bathroom to the basement.

Ira Grossman has no objections.

**Evan Thackaberry moved to grant the variances as presented for 42 Forest Drive to the State Sanitary Code *410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen -- Natural Light and Electrical Outlets* as described in the letter dated May 11th, 2022 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.**

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

**19 SYLVAN LANE – Discuss Proposed Remodeling Plans**

Nicholas Pauling of Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc. presented on behalf of his client, Stephen Cavnar and provided an overview of the proposed remodeling plans for 19 Sylvan Lane. These plans are still preliminary.

The property was purchased in 2019 and the Assessors records had it listed as a 13 room, 6-bedroom house. However, the Title 5 Report has it listed as a 5-bedroom dwelling.

Ira Grossman has no objections to the proposed plans.

Board members requested that the applicant use the most up to date finalized version of the proposed plans when they submit their Building Permit application.

**Michelle Collette moved to accept a Deed Restriction for the property at 19 Sylvan Lane limiting it to 5 bedrooms and require that the Deed Restriction 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.**

Board members informed Mr. Pauling that the recorded copy of the Bedroom Deed Restriction needs to be submitted with the Building Permit Application.

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**COVID UPDATES**

The Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee is meeting again Wednesday. Brief discussion ensued regarding thoughts on any potential re-masking policy for the schools.

**Evan Thackaberry moved that the Groton Board of Health agree that a data driven policy for re masking is essential for the Town’s School District and that the Groton Board of Health make the following general recommendations into how to craft such a policy.**

**The Board of Health strongly recommends the following be key components of an evidence-based re-masking policy.**

1. **Consider the use of voluntary mask recommendations to help reduce potential in-school transmission. For example, an e mail to the parents of all students in a class that sees multiple new cases in a week informing the parents of the close-contacts and strongly encouraging (but not requiring) masks to be worn for a period of time after the infections were documented.**
2. **The main driver for re-masking should be infection incidence within the schools. Inclusion of community-based metrics may be considered as a secondary factor.**
3. **The trigger for re-masking should be immediate (not based on multiple weeks of case numbers) such that the district can quickly respond to an emerging spike in cases. In keeping with this goal, no additional approval or discussion at the Board of Health or School Board should be required once the masking threshold is met.**
4. **A data-driven policy should be in place for removal of masks should case numbers decrease.**
5. **The Board should consider a school-by-school policy to allow for a targeted response to outbreaks without requiring masks at unaffected schools.**

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

**GROTON SENIOR CENTER UPDATE**

Michelle Collette informed the public that the Groton Senior Center is closed until May 23rd. The Town Manager has been in consultation with the Council of Aging Director regarding this.

The Board members are in full support of the decision made to temporarily close the Groton Senior Center in an effort to keep the public and the Town employees safe.

**Michelle Collette moved to issue a vote of confidence in the Town Manager’s decision on conscientiousness and would like to thank the Town Manager for his conscientiousness.**

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

**Michelle Collette moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

**APPROVED: June 6, 2022**