

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Michelle Collette, Chairman

Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Evan Thackaberry, Member

Date: Monday, August 15th, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall, 173 Main Street

Members Present: Michelle Collette, Chairperson; Evan Thackaberry, Member; Ira Grossman, Nashoba Associated Board of Health Agent

Member Absent: Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Others Present:

**Michelle Collette called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Kevin present with both homeowners; mr. and ms. tammaro

Design for existing 5 bedroom; failed title 5

Designed presby

Water serviced by well

IG – only spot that it fits; no objections to it; 5 bedrooms; considered as local upgrade approval

MC – reducing from road side line

For # 4 interpreting as edge of right away not right of pavement? Kevin – correct

Evan moved to grant the vars requested for 26 valliria drive letter dated 7/26/22

All in favor

Discussion of Review Comments Provided by Town Counsel for Septic System Design at Shepley Hill Village \* (Added to Agenda on 8/15/2022)

Shepley

Local regs vs. condo project

IG – attorneys reviewed it – one correction needed to make; 26 units not 28; seems consistent with what TOG regs are – ig does not see conflict with how it’s written

Mc – any votes would have to take place at future meeting

IG – will be preparing permit for next meeting; can decide whether members want to meet earlier

Response is in package

Next meeting date is 9/19; meeting earlier so boh can attend sb meeting

**POSSIBILITY OF MEETING ON MONDAY, 8/29TH OF THE MONTH IF THERE WAS ANYTHING OF URGENCY THAT COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THE 19TH**

**2 ISLAND ROAD – Septic Design System Variance Request**

Jack Maloney present

Here on behalf of Peter and patty woodward

Cess pool failing

Well on site

6 weymissit is across the street; mr. prest’s property

Plan went before conservation and has order of conditions

Proposed addition

Certain section will be returned back to grass

Jack spoke with mr. prest last week (art prest)

IG – not a big fan of pits to begin with but seems to be the only thing that fits on it;

If only going to extend barrier down for short period of time there needs to be a 3:1 slope in the back; however this cannot be met

Long term goal – make sure there’s no breakout coming out from the bottom of the leach pits

System is not pressure distributed – if it does not drain directly under and goes beyond the barrier

JACK – slope of water coming up there; 6 parts of total design flow, under 100 gallons; usage wouldn’t be that great (3 people currently living there)

In re to “wall” more of an unnecessary excavation that we would have to do; cost of concrete wall would be significant;

EVAN – would putting that in deeper would at all help? Slope reduction; need to channel it downwards rather than horizontally

Deeper you go, more caving involved with that per jack

2 deeper is an improvement

IG – my suggestion is that you meet the requirements – or come up with poly barrier that meets regs

IG – not comfortable w/it

Jack – keep it closer to a gradual slope

Ig – jack has maximized what can fit on there

Have 4 ft to slide back into the well; trying to stay in already disturbed driveway area

MC – title 5 vars

From state regs a whole other matter

All components of septic system is 100ft away from abutting properties

2 local upgrade approvals – jack

Greater than 36 inches – has to do with the depth of the tank

Very up and down site that we’re dealing with

Can slide that back this way and make distance a bit greater

MC – if you have an alternative; could be done so that it’s closer in compliance than what you have now; inclined to follow IG’s recommendation

Retaining wall – opening up a bigger section of area to pour concrete that’s going to be buried; that much more disturbance

MC – trying to avoid further issues

Add another 18 – 24 inches deeper with just the poly barrier

EVAN – shift it 4 ft? asked IG – won’t get 3:1 gradient; maybe push area back a little bit

IG – will get deeper and grade will move out overtime

MC – inclined to agree with IG since you do have other options

Local upgrade approvals; not variances

Everything essentially stays; except increase distance

Jack to work with homeowner and IG; next meeting on 9/19 – can hear it then unless there’s an urgency to do it sooner

Have good seed and gravel

Pamela goodwin – own undeveloped land on Shenandoah comes up to corner of island rd and weymisset

Make certain there is no negative impact on her property; was there earlier to walk around

Wanted to confirm where leaching field is; jack showed ms. g on map

Neighbor’s well

Any proposed work will not have any effect on ms. g’s property bc well distance is already in compliance

Very happy that this is being continued; will not be here for the next meeting; will trust the board and IG to make the best possible decision; CAN SEND LETTER OR EMAIL TO BOARD; written comments; can read it into the comment

Roadway – variance approved at the meeting before

Jack – almost a given one; have to use what you have available re road variance

Boh meetings televised on cable; mc directed pam to Groton channel

Evan moved to continue this hearing to 9/19; mc seconded; all in favor

**16 SHATTUCK ROAD**

William schulzt present

Matt foley and Emily Shirley

Title 5 done on 5/2011

3rd page – previous title 5 inspector determined that water table – estimated at 30 inches; bottom of leach trench is 24

IG asked will to certify that

William - Failing of system bc of water table was incorrect

Has 2 trench lines coming out of it

Most recent one done on 6/22

IG – is comfortable with it; new engineer verifying actual depth; was indeed transposed; has no objections to that;

Comfortable with this – meets those requirements

BOH is deciding factor

2011 – someone didn’t do upgrade with failing system; before IG’s time

Confirming that newest title 5 from 2022 is accurate and supersedes failed one from 2011

Evan move to accept the recent title 5 dated 6/22/2022 for property at 16 shattuck st. mc seconded; all in favor

**DISCUSSION OF LETTER**

Dr. Chesson & brian

8/12 letter – dr. c – nothing to add

Agreed on the weekly data

Commissioner of education – masking is supported as a choice

Has sufficient testing – can test students and provide results

Approach anything close to “peak” would contact ma dept, nabh, dboh, etc. school ma etc.

What we had said in the spring

Dept of secondary education etc.

Brian – any thoughts or comments in response to what was sent to BOH

Evan – knows there will be covid in the schools; not trying to chase low #’s of cases with mask mandate; concern was more about having a policy in place that could respond to big spike

5/18 – provided reccs on what that might look like

School board DID not adopt a policy

#’s on weekly basis will help us to understand process

Brian - Can call emergency meeting at any time

Dr. c can alert with brian and hold emergency meeting

Face covering policy

Can move pretty quickly

Evan – wasn’t sure what that threshold would be

150 for students would cause dr. c to consult ma dept schools

Important to understand what that metrics is

Pool testing is no longer being paid for by state (expensive)

Parents can offer data; if we link masking to those #’s then parents may be skeptical to report positive covid cases

Evan – would certainly be in contact with gdrsd

Brian – getting a lot of help from dph and secondary schools etc.

Dr. c – have targeted person remaining on staff liaison for schools

If sees a rise dr. c would contact them

Dr c uncomfortable w/specific statistic; this is grayer area

Last spring – put data on website; committed to doing that on a weekly basis

Boh just wants to be part of the discussion

Be kept in the info loop

Keep communication open

If we monitor the #’s

Dr. c – please do not have that happen again

Voted to write the letter to send to dr. c

Brian – disappointed in tone – not taking safety seriously; do take this extremely seriously

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**368 MAIN STREET - Discussion of Status of Food Service Permit and Use of Facility**

IG – Operating – do not have any food service permits

Will Gilson

Should be coming in shortly

Home being rented out in some way shape or form – david Gilson

Received reply on Friday

Motel / hotel license – refer to email response

Still need clarification on what that is

Rental vs. leasing

ST rental is how IG is reading it

Ig – think we’re getting answers; feel comfortable after receiving responses from will

MC – still running as restaurant? Yes; catering license; food service permit

David Gilson – has approvals from town clerk; PB; ZBA? Ig – apparently he did but IG was unaware of it

Entertainment license pending with SB

Certain things can happen under caterer license

Fire chief involved, building dept aware of it; boh last of the party; permits are annual (fall renewal time period)

**LEAVE UNDER OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

Mc – if we do want to opt out what is involved?

Ig – submit a written request with a lot of detail; mosquito control program all on your own

Based on harvard’s experience; if positive test in mosquito pool not going to approve

Pepperell was denied based on this

Harvard spent a lot of time on this; protocol they were evaluated on it

Mc – pepperell – they tried to opt out but were not approved – IG will confirm

Harvard did do a lot of work

Evan – not ideal to be spraying but ultimately, it’s a health metric

Budgetary crisis happened

$67K a year for 3 years minimum

Mc – taking on a lot of responsibility locally

Ig – not sure when deadlines are; look on map and if you have a positive ig recommend don’t waste time or energy

Seminars, postcards, flyers / brochures

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes dated August 1st, 2022.

**Evan Thackaberry moved to accept the meeting minutes dated August 1st, 2022. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.**

**INVOICES AND PERMITS**

Board members reviewed and signed invoices and permits.

**Evan Thackaberry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.