

**TOWN OF GROTON**

Board of Health

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Michelle Collette, Chair

Robert J. Fleischer, Member

Evan Thackaberry, Member

Date: Monday, September 19th, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall

Members Present: Michelle Collette, Chairperson; Robert J. Fleischer, Member; Evan Thackaberry, Member

Others Present: Jack Maloney, Dillis & Roy Associates

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

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

Jack Maloney of Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group, Inc. presented on behalf of their client, Peter and Patricia Woodward and requested the following variances for 2 Island Road:

**Local Variances:**

• 315-3(K): Whenever a system must be pumped, the soil absorption system must be pressure dosed (Provided: galley type system, no dosing required)

• 315-5(B): When the length of pipe from the house prior to the distribution box exceeds 100 ft. construction shall comply with 310 CMR 15.222 (Provided: total length from house to distribution box= 128.0)

• 315-5(F): A minimum of 35 feet must be available between the edge of any street, passageway or road line and the entire exterior perimeter of any proposed leaching area. (Provided: 12.0 feet)

• 315-5(G): A minimum of 20 feet must be available between the property line and the entire exterior perimeter of any proposed leaching area. (Provided: 9.1 feet & 12.0)

• 315-5(I): Walls and impervious barriers are not allowed to adjust the side slope requirement and offset.

• 315-6: Leach beds and pits will be sized at 150% of title 5 requirements (Provided: system designed to title 5 section-15.242)

**TITLE V LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVALS:**

• 15.405(1)(a): Reduction to system setbacks for property lines provided system is within the property lines. (Provided: 9.1 feet to nearest property line)

• 15.405(1)(b): Increase in maximum allowable depth of system components from 36" to 72". (Provided:36"-48"±)

Ms. Collette made an announcement that the Town’s Board of Health agent Ira Grossman has now retired but will still be working for Groton on a part-time basis. Although Mr. Grossman will no longer be in attendance at the Board meetings, he will continue to provide comments for each agenda item in advance of their meetings.

Mr. Maloney went over revised plans with the members. As follow up to the last discussion the system is now being moved 4-5 feet from the original proposed location.

Mr. Grossman provided the following comments:

The Upgrade plan by Dillis and Roy Civil Design Group requires many variances to the Groton Board of Health regulations which were discussed at a previous meeting. The Board continuation was essentially to allow the Engineer to make a revision to allow for a modification of the leaching area and the associated grading as required by Title 5.

A revised plan, dated 8/16/22 has been submitted however the minimum “break-out” fill and grading for the system does not meet Title 5, Section 15.255(2), nor does it meet the DEP guidelines for the design and installation of impervious barriers and slope stabilization for a septic system:

*15.255(2). “The finished side slopes of a mounded system shall not be steeper than 3:1 (horizontal:vertical). A minimum 15-foot horizontal separation distance shall be provided between the soil absorption area and the adjacent side slope as measured from the edge of the top of the two-inch layer of c to ½ inch washed stone aggregate or geotextile fabric cover.”*

Mr. Grossman cannot recommend that the Groton Board of Health approve the request under the Town’s local regulations which prohibit the use of barriers nor does Mr. Grossman believe that the design is in compliance with Title 5 or the state’s guidelines.

Mr. Maloney said in response to Mr. Grossman’s comments in order to accomplish this it may mean having to disturb more area. Brief discussion ensued regarding details of the poly barrier.

Mr. Maloney will work with Mr. Grossman to find a solution.

**Robert Fleischer moved to continue this discussion of the Septic Design System Variance Request for 2 Island Road to the Board of Health’s next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 3rd, 2022 at 7:30PM.**

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

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

**136 BROADMEADOW ROAD – Discussion of Proposed Irrigation Well**

Skillings and Sons Well Drilling Company has applied for a permit for an irrigation well for 136 Broadmeadow Road.

There is no exemption for having a well on a property where town water is available as stated in the regulations below.

**§ 330-4. Well Construction/Deconstruction Permit**

*C. Any dwelling on property with a lot line that is within 500 feet of a water main must be connected to a municipal water supply system.*

There is a separate section for an irrigation well but Section 330-4 dictates overall requirements for permitting. In Ira Grossman’s reading of the regulation if there is a separate request for an irrigation well and the property is serviced by “town water” the request would need to be through a variance process.

This property is on Town water therefore as stated in the regulations a well variance is required for any proposed well that is located within 500 ft. of a water main connected to the municipal water system.

The Board members agree with Mr. Grossman’s interpretation of the well regulations and will ask him to inform the applicant that a variance is required.

**REVIEW RESPONSE LETTER TO DR. NARAYAN**

The Board members reviewed a draft letter in response to an email on the subject of masking received from Dr. Narayan on August 8th, 2022.

**Robert Fleischer moved to approve and send this letter to Dr. Narayan in response to the subject on masking. Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes dated October 19th, 2020.

Robert Fleischer made a grammatical correction.

**Robert Fleischer moved to accept the meeting minutes dated October 19th, 2020 as amended. Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

**COVID UPDATES**

**WEEKLY COVID REPORTS FROM SCHOOL**

The Board of Health members will request that the total number of staff and students from each school in the district is included in the weekly reports that we receive from the Superintendent.

The Board will also request that the Dunstable Board of Health is copied on the weekly report emails as stated in the Board’s original request.

**COVID TEST KITS**

The town is expecting to receive a new shipment of COVID test kits and will replenish the current inventory once these arrive.

**Robert Fleischer moved to recess the meeting at 6:35pm until 7:15pm when the Board members reconvene at the Select Board meeting upstairs in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Evan Thackaberry seconded and the motion carried.**

Minutes by Sammie Kul.

**APPROVED: October 17, 2022**