



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 July, 17, 2023
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 1ST Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall
Members Present: Michelle Collette, Evan Thackaberry
Members Not Present: Robert J. Fleischer
Others Present: Katie Berry, Wanor Decarvalho, Karyn Franzek, Judy Anderson, Jack McCaffrey, Tom Orcutt

Michelle Collette called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

192 Cherry Tree Lane- Natural Light Variance, 410.250: Habitable Rooms Other than Kitchen- Wanor Decarvalho, the contractor, addressed the board to discuss the finished basement project at this address, providing the square footage of window dimensions. After a few clarifying questions, Evan Thackaberry moved that the variance be granted as requested, Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.

Chapter 330- Wells revised regulation discussion, 27 Oxbow Lane- Michelle Collette addressed the room presenting a situation that has come up regarding this regulation and its recent change, that we have had multiple homeowners who have needed a grace period regarding their water analysis results. For 27 Oxbow Ln, they will have time to let the buyer know the results prior to closing, that is an important component. The aim would be to make sure the buyer has results prior to closing.

Nashua River Watershed Association water testing data- Michelle Collette let the room know that the Board of Health has received emails starting on July 4th from the Nashoba River Watershed Association sharing lab results from testing "swimming hole" areas, not official swimming areas/beaches, in the Nashua and Squannacook rivers, these tests showed high contaminants, particularly E. coli. The Groton Board of Health posted signage at Bertozzi area, Fitches Bridge area, as a courtesy to the public. The high levels were of concern so the Groton Board of Health went over and above to post these areas. She mentioned the Department of Conservation and Recreation website is a resource for the public to monitor, and proposed connecting with Nashua River Watershed Association to thank them for their services or perhaps invite them to a future Board of Health meeting.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

PHEP Representative Letter- Evan Thackaberry moved to appoint Michelle Collette to serve as Public Health Emergency Preparedness representative for the Groton Board of Health.

Sign permits/ invoices- two permits were signed by Evan Thackaberry and Michelle Collette.

06/20/2023 Minutes Evan Thackaberry moved to accept minutes as submitted approved, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting

Our next meetings will be July 31st 6:00pm, August 7th 7:00pm, August 21st, 7:00pm.

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. **PFAS Updates-** Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent, and Jack McCaffrey Chairman of the Groton Water Commission addressed the room to speak about the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) issue at the Groton Dunstable High School area, and the future Groton PFAS remediation plans that are currently being discussed with the Select Board. Testing in the Groton Dunstable High School area have showed PFAS in amounts of 200-400 parts per trillion, as well as high amounts at residences in that part of town surrounding the school, a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Environmental Partners has completed a 47-page study of the issue, which has been made available to the Board of Health. As of today, the US Environmental Protection Agency standard for PFAS is a maximum of 70 parts per trillion and the MA Department of Environmental Protection standard is a maximum of 20 parts per trillion. The EPA has proposed new standards will bring that number down to 4 parts per trillion, with the proposed change to be in effect by December 2023, municipalities will be given 3 years to comply. The goal for the EPA is to move toward 0 parts per trillion. There are two mitigation options presently being discussed, the first is to utilize Groton water, to be pumped to the Groton Dunstable High School and surrounding areas, near Chicopee Row, this water would have 2 parts per trillion or less. The financial impact of the Groton option would be 9-10 million.

The second option is to utilize Pepperell water from their 2 wells, Bemis and Jersey, the Jersey well currently has 16.5 parts per trillion of PFAS, which will be out of compliance by December. This was would be brought to the Groton Dunstable High School and surrounding areas. This option has a possibility of a portable skid mounted treatment facility to be mounted on a truck near the high school, or to be run straight into the area as-is, untreated. The financial impact of the Pepperell option would be approximately 4-5 million dollars without treatment and 8-10 million with treatment, this option would be ready by December 2024. Jack McCaffrey indicated that the 3 Pepperell wells are struggling, as the Nashua well is over 20 parts per trillion and currently offline, the Jersey well has 16.5 parts per trillion, and the Bemis well is a clean well, although he indicates that the Bemis well is running at half speed.

Tom Orcutt let the board know that the new 10-million-dollar water treatment plant in Groton will be PFAS ready by engaging engineers to design piping modules in preparation for PFAS mitigation. The cost associated would be 250-300 thousand so that the plant would be ready if PFAS was to be detected from the Groton well. Whichever option is decided upon at the 7/31 Select Board meeting will be brought to Town Meeting this fall for approval. Tom Orcutt also indicated that SRF application for funds would be ready come August 15th, and it will be a race to see which MA communities receive fundings from SRF, though Groton has technology in place and is well positioned, and the town will know the result of the application in January. The Board of Health members spoke about providing the best quality drinking water to our students and community, as well as the benefit of keeping local control by selecting the Groton water option.

Evan Thackaberry motioned that the Board of Health would not support any water option for the Groton Dunstable High School and surrounding area that does not meet the proposed EPA standards of 4 parts per trillion, Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried. A letter to the Select Board indicating such, will be composed by the Groton Board of Health.

B. Nod Road Land Fill Updates- No updates

C. Squannacook Sportsmen's Club Site Updates – No updates

Evan Thackaberry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Michelle Collette seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes by Katie Berry.

APPROVED: 7/31/23

APPROVED