



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 August, 21, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: 1ST Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall
Members Present: Michelle Collette, Evan Thackaberry, Robert J. Fleischer
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Katie Berry, Jack Maloney, Judy Anderson, Jim Garreffo, Felix Rajappan, Barbara Seeber-Wagner, Sarah Campbell, William Schultz, Jeffrey Hannaford

Michelle Collette called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Discuss Public Health 101 Lunch and Learn advertising expense- Michelle Collette shared that the Groton Board of Health is co-sponsoring the Lunch and Learn presentation at The Groton Center on Monday September 18th at 12:00pm, Groton Board of Health will pay for the expense of flyer creation through Minuteman Press for \$25.00.

28 Ridgewood Ave- Dillis & Roy, client Barbara Ruskin, Local SDS & Well Variances and Title 5 Variances, and Title 5 Local Upgrade Approvals- Jack Maloney of Dillis and Roy began to make a presentation to the board describing the project on behalf of his client Barbara Ruskin. The abutters notice provided however, showed a hearing date of August 7th, so procedurally the hearing could not be completed. Evan Thackaberry moved to continue the hearing for 28 Ridgewood Ave until the next Board of Health meeting on September 18th, 2023 at 6:30pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried.

160 Wyman Rd- Snyder Pools, Variance for Regulation 319-1 Enclosure Required for Swimming Pools- The variance applicant was not present at the hearing to answer questions. Bob Fleischer moved to continue the variance hearing, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

33 Sunset Rd- Water Quality Test Update- Michelle Collette addressed the board to discuss, prior to sale of a home, private well testing is required, this home is an example of a test with water quality issues, failing for lead and radon, though the property closed anyway. This reinforces the need for the results 30 days prior, regulations need to be enforced.

57 Magnolia Ln- Felix Rajappan, State Sanitary Code 105.CMR 410.430 Habitable Rooms Other Than Kitchen-Natural Light and Electrical Outlets- Felix Rajappan spoke to the board to present his project of finishing his basement. The board reviewed the plans and ventilation before Bob Fleischer moved to grant the variance for 57 Magnolia Ln, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

57 Chestnut Hill Rd- Soilsmith Designs, SDS Variances Regulations 315-1-B, 315-3-I, and 315-1-E.- William Schultz, the installer for the project addressed the board. Jim Garreffo described his and Ira Grossmans observations on the septic plans provided. Mr. Garreffo mentioned that an additional variance may be needed. Evan Thackaberry moved to continue this hearing until the next meeting on September 18th at 6:30pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried.

43 Smith St- Norse Design Services, SDS Variances Regulations 310 CMR 15.401, Local Regulations 315-1 & 315-3.- Jeff Hannaford representing Norse Design, addressed the board to describe the project. He stated that the current septic system has failed and after soil testing suggested a Presby Enviro system. Michelle Collette asked why the system will be new but the tank will not, as they plan to use the pre-existing tank. Jeff indicated that the tank was installed in 1996 but meets Title 5, and is allowed in regulations. Bob Fleischer asked Jim Gareffi if the tank has a life expectancy, which can vary widely and is dependent on each situation. Michelle Collette asked why the system had failed, which Jeff Hannaford indicated that, to the best of his recollection, was a hydraulic failure. Michelle Collette suggested that the Board of Health conditionally recommend that the tank be replaced as well. Bob Fleischer moved to grant the variance for 43 Smith St, subject to standard conditions, and that the buyer should consider replacing the tank, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried.

36 Oxbow Ln- Norse Design Services, SDS Variances Local Regulations 315-1 & 315-5.- Jeff Hannaford spoke about this project, as the homeowner is upgrading this system voluntarily. The home at 4 bedrooms, though they recently discovered that the original septic was designed for a 3 bedroom. Jim Garreffo, Health Agent from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, had no issues with the requested variance. Bob Fleischer confirmed the home is to remain 4 bedrooms, as the new design is for a 4-bedroom system. Barbara Seber- Wagner, of 46 Laurel Lane addressed the board to share that the land between her abutting home and 36 Oxbow has a potential vernal pool. She shared her concerns about the septic flow and elevation of the septic system toward the potential vernal pool. Jeff Hannaford addressed her concerns by stating the effect of the leach field does not connect to surface runoff. Jeff Hannaford explained that the system will not affect the runoff that is noticeably moving down the back of the property. Michelle Collette shared stormwater information with the resident as well. Jeff Hannaford stated that the project is not in the wetlands buffer zone. Sarah Campbell, of 43 Laurel Lane, asked what the variances mean with regard to the well locations on her property at 43 Laurel Ln and the home on Oxbow Ln. Jeff states that the protective well radiance is 100 feet, and explained the order of prioritizing setbacks for environmental protections. Evan Thackaberry moved to grant the variances for 36 Oxbow Lane with the standard conditions, Bob Fleischer seconded, and motion carried.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Sign permits/ invoices- The board signed any permits and invoices.

07/31/2023 Minutes Bob Fleischer moved to accept the 7/31/23 Board of Health meeting minutes as submitted approved, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting

Next meeting will be September 18th, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Surface water quality updates- Michelle Collette informed the board that a Surface Water Quality Working Group has been established to monitor non permitted swimming areas. There

may be a cost associated with the certified laboratory testing, which the Board of Health may look to assist.

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. PFAS Updates-** the Select Board has decided to go with the Groton option for PFAS remediation, see Select Board minutes for complete information.
- B. Nod Road Land Fill Updates-** no additional updates.
- C. Squannacook Sportsmen's Club Site Updates** – the EPA is continuing to work and excavate in this area.
- D. Connector Lab Updates-** Michelle Collette shared that the activities and use limitation document went on record with the registry of deeds, the information has been shared with the Board of Health members by email as well.

Michelle Collette moved to adjourn at 8:19pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes by Katie Berry.

APPROVED: 9/18/23

APPROVED