



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 18, 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, Judy Anderson, Bridgette Braley, Douglas Smith

Michelle Collette called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Groton School, Emergency Beaver Control at Groton School Pond- Attorney Robert Collins submitted an Emergency Beaver Removal Permit in conjunction with an Emergency Certification to handle flood damage caused by breach of dam during heavy rains on 9/11/23. This permit was approved by Ira Grossman, Health Agent.

28 Ridgewood Ave- Dillis & Roy, client Barbara Ruskin, Local SDS & Well Variances and Title 5 Variances, and Title 5 Local Upgrade Approvals - Per the request of Jack Maloney, of Dillis and Roy Civil Engineering the board will continue this variance hearing. Bob Fleischer motioned to continue this hearing to the next Board of Health Meeting, 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 – Doug Smith of Soilsmith Designs presented the site plans for a geo-mat system to the board. He is requesting these variances due to the severe steep of the property. Testing was done June 21st, 2023, the system failed title 5 in May of 2023 for the 3-bedroom home. He will be using pressure dosing as well to accommodate the design. Bridgette Braley of Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, after conversing with Ira Grossman, Health Agent, agreed that this geo-mat system is the best solution for the property, based on the perc rate. Bob Fleischer confirmed that this would be recorded to follow the property in future transfers. Evan Thackaberry moved to grant the requested variances with the standard conditions, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried.

747 Lowell Road, Ms. Fairbairn, Discussion on non-compliance issues and possible condemnation hearing. - Michelle Collette stated that there are multiple violations on this property, going back to at least 1991 and recommended that the board vote on whether to move forward with a condemnation hearing. Bridgette Braley and Ira Grossman agree that the condemnation hearing should move forward. Some of the issues are related to projects done without permitting, as well as the deck and heating on the property. Bridgette Braley will email the board Condemnation with Notice information to be reviewed with Town Counsel. The property currently has a purchase and sale to close in early October. Bridgette Braley stated that the home and garage are not currently occupied. Bob Fleischer motioned to schedule a condemnation hearing for 747 Lowell Rd as soon as possible, with consultation with Town Counsel, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried.

318 Main St, Haffner's Service Station- Discussion on UST Threat of Release of Gasoline- Michelle Collette shared for everyone's information, that the Board of Health received notice from the Department of Environmental Protection that 318 Main St, Haffner's Service Station had a breach resulting in gasoline in the interstitial space of the UST at the site. Michelle Collette also noted that there were no wells within 500 feet, as she had checked all addresses provided by the licensed site professional, Atlas.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

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

08/21/2023 Minutes Bob Fleischer moved to accept the 8/21/23 Board of Health meeting minutes as submitted approved, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

08/30/2023 Minutes Bob Fleischer moved to accept the 8/30/23 Board of Health meeting minutes as submitted approved, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting

Next meeting will be October 2nd, 2023 at 6:30pm and tentatively Monday October 23rd, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Surface water quality updates- Michelle Collette states that all Groton "swimming hole," areas have normal levels and were safe as of the most recent testing results through Nashua River Watershed Association, she removed all signs for high bacterial contamination from these areas. Michelle Collette also noted that one area upstream in Townsend was particularly high.

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. PFAS Updates-** At the Select Board meeting at 5pm this evening, they have voted to move forward with a solution that involves Groton, Pepperrell, and Dunstable. For more details on this solution, please see the Select Board minutes for 9/18/23 and the PowerPoint presentation on the Groton website. This solution is subject to town vote on 10/28/23. Bridgette Braley shared with the board that PFAS testing occurs as the plume migrates, currently in Dunstable, if a new positive result occurs, the testing radius extends 500 feet from that site. Evan Thackaberry asked if Dunstable requires PFAS testing upon the sale of a home, Bridgette Braley stated that it is not required, as it is in Groton.
- B. Nod Road Land Fill Updates-** no updates.
- C. Squannacook Sportsmen's Club Site Updates –** The EPA is supposed to complete remediation by the end of October. The town will demolish the building upon completion.
- D. Connector Lab Updates-** Michelle Collette stated that there is a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 9/19/23 at 6:00pm to discuss closing the site. The committee is continuing to monitor the situation.

Bob Fleischer moved to adjourn at 7:30pm, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes by Katie Berry.

APPROVED: 10/2/23
