



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 October 23, 2023
Time: 5:30 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, Dan Walsh, Peter Cunningham, Stephanie Scalley

Michelle Collette called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Beaver Permit Concerns, Peter Cunningham- Michelle Collette introduced Peter Cunningham and shared with the public that the concerns involve the Groton School, Groton School's Attorney Bob Collins, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, as well as the residents of Smith Street. Peter Cunningham began by stating he is specifically concerned about the beaver dam at the Groton School Pond that was breached on September 11th, 2023 in heavy flooding. He has seen no repair activity at the site since a Beaver Removal Permit was approved by the Board of Health was received. Peter Cunningham also shared with the board that on the past Saturday October 21st, 2023 the dam was breached again, and adjacent properties were not affected. Mr. Cunningham is concerned that, while the owner of the dam is aware of these issues, no work has been done to remedy the breached dam situation since the permit was approved in September, and the beavers continue to be active. Michelle Collette shared that the Board of Health has received an unprecedented amount of Beaver Permits due to these heavy rains. Peter Cunningham asked what the follow up process is and if there is any follow up by the Board of Health after the permit is approved. Michelle shared the typical permit process and response to these issues by trapping and beaver deceiver usage. Peter Cunningham stated that he is looking for someone to reinforce to Groton School that they need to be more aware of their property including breached dam. Michelle Collette offered to reach out to Groton School to make sure they are aware of the situation and to continue the discussion with Attorney Bob Collins. Bob Fleischer motioned for the Board of Health to get in touch with Groton School and to invite the parties involved to the upcoming November 6th, 2023 Board of Health meeting. Peter Cunningham noted that he is here as a private citizen, not as a Select Board member.

34 Arrow Trail, 34 Arrow Trail Revocable Trust c/o Timothy & Stephanie Scalley, bedroom deed restriction. – Stephanie Scalley, addressed the board to share that she is planning to do construction on the home to create a second floor, and make changes to the layout of the first floor. The bedroom deed restriction states that the 1-bedroom home will remain a 1-bedroom home. Evan Thackaberry moved to grant the deed restriction, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried with Michelle Collette abstaining.

39 Island Pond Rd, Michael & Joanne White, State Sanitary Code 105.CMR 410.430 Habitable Rooms other than Kitchen-Natural Light and Electrical Outlets- Dan Walsh addressed the board to discuss the basement finishing project, to be used as a family room. The board reviewed the

submitted plans, Bob Fleischer moved to grant the variance, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

747 Lowell Road, Jenna Fairbairn- Non-compliance issues condemnation hearing- Michelle Collette shared that the Board of Health had received an email today stating that Jenna Fairbairn has engaged an attorney and has requested a continuation of this hearing. Michelle Collette also shared that per her discussion with Mark Haddad, Town Manager, the hearing will be continued to November 6th, 2023, at 7:00pm, with consideration to the fact that the property is vacant, and Ms. Fairbairn is not local. Bob Fleischer clarified that there are orders that make clear that the home should not be occupied. Bob Fleischer moved to continue the hearing to November 6, 2023 at 7:00pm, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

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

Minutes- Evan Thackaberry moved to accept the 23 October 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes as submitted, approved, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. seconded, and the motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting

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

ON-GOING ISSUES

PFAS Updates – Michelle Collette brought up the potential for the board to take a position on Warrant Article 9 at the upcoming Fall Town Meeting. Bob Fleischer moved that the Board of Health support Article 9 at the Groton Fall Town Meeting on Saturday 10/28/2023, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Judy Anderson suggested that the board publicly mention the election hours, 11am-7pm, as well as early voting is available and posted on the town's website.

Squannacook Sportsmen's Club Site Updates – Peter Cunningham noted that the site should be closed out by Friday, there will be a meeting on Thursday to review. Once the site is clean, and closed out, the town intends to acquire the property, and for the Council on Aging to review potential use of the land moving forward, for passive recreational uses.

Evan Thackaberry moved to adjourn at 6:03pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Katie Berry.

APPROVED: 11/6/2023
