



TOWN OF GROTON

Board of Health
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

BOARD OF HEALTH

Evan Thackaberry, Chair
Robert J. Fleischer, Member
Michelle Collette, Member

Date: Monday June 3rd, 2024
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Town Hall, 173 Main St Groton MA, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Michelle Collette, Robert J. Fleischer, Evan Thackaberry
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Katie Berry, Judy Anderson, Brian Callahan, Terri Martin, Diane Carson, Peter Carson, Linda Bicknell, Bob Bicknell, V. O'Donnell, Syed Dong, Kalene Gendron, Andrew Brosseau by phone, William Matt

Evan Thackaberry called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DPH, Public Health Advisory for Nashua River- The board reviewed the recent Department of Public Health advisory for fish consumption, with Michelle Collette noting that the Groton Board of Health has posted the notice flyer at local swimming and boating areas as a courtesy, as well as on social media, and the town website.

Nashoba Paddler, River Camp-Variance 105 CMR 430:370 Toilet Facilities Required – Diane Carson of Nashoba Paddler River Camp addressed the board to share the need for a toilet facilities variance for the 2-week summer camp. Bob Fleischer moved to grant the requested variance for 105 CMR 430:370 Toilet Facilities Required, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Groton Community School Camp, Terri Martin –Variance 430.101: Required Ratio of Counselors to Campers- Terri Martin of Groton Community School Camp addressed the board to share the need for the ratio of counselor to camper's variance. Michelle Collette noted that Jim Garreffi, Director of NABH, reviewed the variance and did not see any reason not to approve. Michelle Collette moved to grant the requested variance for 430.101: Required Ratio of Counselors to Campers, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

600 Cow Pond Rd, Andrew Brosseau- Black Earth Compost, Resident Odor Concerns- Syed Dong, Groton Site Foreman for Black Earth Compost in Groton, was present, with Andrew Brosseau, Compost Manager, via speakerphone to discuss Black Earth Compost's operations at 600 Cow Pond Rd, and the concern of odor raised by residents. The board asked questions about what specific materials are processed for composting, with Mr. Dong adding that grass is not processed in order to prevent lawn chemicals from entering the compost. A resident noted that this is a regional facility, receiving material from both Groton and local towns. Bob Fleischer shared a recent experience at the site, where he witnessed smoke in the area. Mr. Dong shared that there was an equipment fire, from the excavator of a subcontractor. Michelle Collette asked what remediation processed the Black Earth Compost facility employs, to which Syed Dong gave a comprehensive response about the decomposition of the material and their current process. Evan Thackaberry read allowed a letter provided from Jim Garreffi, Director of

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. A resident shared her concerns, with trucks traveling the roadway in the area, adding to the odor, as well as noting that at certain times the odor is very strong, she stated that she has concerns about the material's impact on soil and water in the area for those with wells, adding that other residents have complained of headaches from the odor. The resident compared the Groton site location with another Black Earth Compost facility in Manchester-by-the-Sea, that she believed to be in a more remote location. The board asked questions of Brian Callahan DPW Director in Training, about a recent inspection done by the Department of Environmental Protection, of the landfill, and composting site, which passed without issue. Andrew Brosseau, of Black Earth Compost shared that they have been doing odor audits, to help understand the issues, and encouraged residents to utilize the Odor Hotline. The resident stated that she has stopped calling the odor hotline number that was provided, as she feels that it is not her responsibility to wait on the phone and make reports, and that she has been calling for 4 years. The board reviewed a document showing the number of calls to the Odor Hotline, which were very minimal. Andrew Brosseau shared that in regards to air and water testing, they have been testing for PFAS for 4 years, voluntarily, and that he will provide results to the Board of Health. Michelle Collette also shared that Geological Field Services does mandated testing on the adjacent landfill, which is on record with the Groton Board of Health, Michelle Collette also shared that the board's Agent has been in contact with DEP. Evan Thackaberry asked representatives about current hours of operation for the composting site, with Mr. Dong sharing that while the schedule can vary, they are not open on the weekend. Michelle Collette provided information on longstanding town policies on working hours of 7am-5pm. The resident made comments about the placement of the facility, being too close to neighbors, that cannot enjoy their homes due to the odor, with the neighbors not wanting to shut the operation down, but to fix the traffic and odor issues. The resident discussed with Mr. Brosseau, the potential of building an indoor operation in Groton, similar to the Black Earth Manchester-by-the-Sea facility, pending a longer contract with the town. Mr. Brosseau provided more information on ways they are working to increase the PH in the compost and working toward managing odors. Evan Thackaberry thanked the resident for her comments and asked that residents continue to call the Odor Hotline, so that the board and all interested parties can use that information appropriately, and that the board would discuss this at a future meeting.

Moratorium on Biosolids Extension- The board reviewed a continued moratorium prohibiting the use or storage of "biosolids" or compost derived from sewage sludge. Michelle Collette discussed the history of the policy which was first drafted in 2020. Bob Fleischer moved to extend the moratorium to 12/31/2025, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Health Agent's Report and Correspondence- Kalene Gendron shared that there has been an increase in Sewage Disposal System permits recently, with the change in season. Kalene Gendron also shared information on seasonal beach permitting and water quality testing.

Sign permits/ invoices- The board reviewed and signed one invoice

Minutes- The board went over the May 20th, 2024 meeting discussion topics. Michelle Collette moved to accept the minutes of 20 May 2024 as submitted, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Designation of Signature Authority- Bob Fleischer moved to grant signature authority to Michelle Collette and Health Agent Kalene Gendron, on action that the board has taken, Evan Thackaberry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting-

Board of Health will meet Monday June 17th, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Other Discussion- Bill Matt from BCS Construction, a walk-in, was allowed to address the board regarding a previously failed sewage disposal system at 828 Martins Pond Rd, sharing that previous D-Box issues have been corrected, and ground water has not been an issue at the site. Mr. Matt is asked the board for approval to perform deep hole testing, and for the agent to be able to accept or reject the Title V. Kalene Gendron shared the regulations pertinent to the request. Evan Thackaberry asked what year the failed inspection was, to which he responded 2019. The board discussed the request, and authorized Mr. Matt to perform the deep hole testing.

Michelle Collette moved to adjourn at 7:55pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 6/17/24
