



## 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 August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Location: Town Hall, 173 Main St Groton MA, 1st Floor Meeting Room  
Members Present: Michelle Collette, Robert J. Fleischer, Evan Thackaberry  
Members Not Present:  
Others Present: Katie Berry, Kalene Gendron, Tom Delaney via Zoom, Andrew Brosseau, Syed Dong, Anne Reimer, Hans Reimer, Colin Rose, Inga Nuccio, Robert Bicknell, Linda Bicknell, Judy Anderson, Hobart Yeager, Nancy Sarlan, Tessa David, Nancy Ohringer, Groton Residents

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

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**600 Cow Pond Rd, Andrew Brosseau- Black Earth Compost, Resident Odor Concerns-** Andrew Brosseau, owner of Black Earth Compost, provided a presentation to share more information about the composting facility located on Cow Pond Brook Rd behind the DPW Transfer Station. Mr. Brosseau shared that the site has been functioning since 2020 and another 3-year contract was signed in December 2023, also giving information on staffing, and daily operations. Mr. Brosseau addressed concerns by abutters regarding odor, speeding of trucks, and noise. For odors, he stated that since complaints were made in April 2024 there have been regular applications of deodorizer to piles, improvements to pads, cleaning of trucks more regularly, sealing of buildings, repair of a damaged garage door, advanced monitoring of bulk density, ph, and oxygen levels, as well as implementation of a different pile turning strategy. Mr. Brosseau shared that he has not received any complaints on the hotline regarding odor since making these changes, his team has done regular odor surveys. Mr. Brosseau shared (2) complaints of speeding trucks that were made in the last week of June, sharing that the speed limit is 25mph and the complaints were of trucks moving by GPS between 25 and 31mph, with drivers being reminded to maintain a speed under 25mph, and the drivers pay being docked. Mr. Brosseau shared voluntary PFAS testing his company has done since 2022, with no detection, except for one result in 2022 of 1ppb. Andrew Brosseau also shared what improvements could be made should the Town move to a long term, 20 to 30-year contract in the future. Michelle Collette shared that from an environmental/storm water standpoint, the long-term investment of an indoor facility would be a benefit, and asked Mr. Brosseau to share information about what that could look like. Resident, Anne Reimer, shared that the changes that Black Earth has made since April 2024 have been significant, noticing no odors since the changes have been implemented, and thanked Mr. Brosseau for making those changes. Ms. Reimer asked about contaminants, which Mr. Brosseau shared that there have been no issues on site with heavy metals, PFAS, or herbicides. Bob Fleischer asked Andrew Brosseau about the location in which runoff moves on the site. Tessa David, a resident, shared praise for the composting site. Tom Delaney, DPW Director, shared his positive remarks about the Black Earth Compost operations, hoping that the Town will continue the beneficial partnership. Nancy Sarlan, addressed the board to clarify that the original complaint was initiated by the 40B application, and wants to ensure that the improvements will stay in place and that the operations won't back slide, to which Mr. Brosseau shared his intent to continue to improve. Michelle Collette stated that until the letter was sent to the Board of Health in April 2024, no complaints had been

made to the Board, and expressed her appreciation for all parties' time, and the benefits of composting on the environment. Evan Thackaberry complimented the proactive stance that Black Earth has taken, encouraging residents to continue to use the hotline if needed. A resident, addressed the board to give praise to the staff at Black Earth and their efforts with the school system, hoping that the middle and elementary will be as active in composting as the high school. Inga Nuccio, of Flavell Rd, shared her praise to the Black Earth Compost operations, and its benefits to the Town and the earth as a whole, commending the low speeds of the trucks, as opposed to soccer parents and officials which speed by her home.

**Additional Discussion:** Anne and Hans Reimer shared concerns with the Board about the noise from the firing range, and their hope for there to be a disclosure to new residents. Michelle Collette shared advice from town counsel during the 40B comprehensive permitting process, which did not allow the ZBA to require such a disclosure. Bob Fleischer asked about signage for the facility, suggesting that perhaps installation of signage could benefit prospective buyers, and they may write to the Select Board to suggest.

**17 Town Line Rd, Wayne Legacy, Housing Code Compliance-** Kalene Gendron, Health Agent, stated that the property owner did inform her that they would not be available for tonight's meeting, she noted that the tenant did not attend either, so the Board could either continue or move to legal proceedings at this point. Michelle Collette suggested sending a letter to the property owner for a future meeting. Kalene Gendron shared that there will be a court date for the parties in 2 weeks. Michelle Collette moved to continue this discussion to September 16<sup>th</sup>, with the expectation that both parties update compliance, Bob Fleischer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**OLD / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Health Agents Report-** Kalene Gendron shared that 2 companies will be attending the next meeting to request to become authorized samplers in Town, Friot's and SafeWell. Ms. Gendron shared that the mosquito testing shows Middlesex County still in low concern. She also stated that the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health suggested sending a letter regarding Nashoba Valley Hospital's closure to be sent to the Select Board and Representatives. Michelle Collette moved to authorize to send the letter as drafted to both state representatives, state senator, and governor Maura Healey, in support of the hospital, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Lastly, Kalene Gendron shared a response from Gus Widmeyer, with remedy to the noise complaint at 240 Main St, which will take time to resolve, Michelle Collette added that Mr. Widmeyer was very receptive to resolving the complaint.

**Sign permits/ invoices-** (1) invoice for ULINE was signed by present members.

**Minutes-** Bob Fleischer moved to accept the minutes of 15 July 2024, as submitted, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Michelle Collette moved to accept the minutes of February 8, 2023, March 23, 2023, April 25, 2023, and August 14, 2023, as submitted, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Schedule Next Meeting-** The Board of Health will meet Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30pm and September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30pm

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**Michelle Collette moved to adjourn at 7:52pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

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Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: 8/19/24**

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