



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 December 2nd, 2024
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Town Hall, 173 Main St Groton MA, 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Michelle Collette, Robert Fleischer, Evan Thackaberry
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Katie Berry, Kalene Gendron, Judy Anderson, Ruth Maxant-Schulz, Connie Sartini, Justin Frazier, Art Cheeks

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

Presentation by Fire Chief, Art Cheeks, on Impact of Nashoba Valley Medical Center Closure- Fire Chief Art Cheeks came before the Board to discuss the significant impact of the closure of Nashoba Valley Medical Center, formerly located in Ayer, on Groton's Emergency Services. The increase in ambulance transport time, the time in which GFD personnel are out of Groton on a call, and the increased wait time at local hospitals due to the closure are significant. The ambulance ride time being almost tripled. Chief Cheeks shared information on current staffing levels, sharing that with the impact of the closure, there is a need for more staff, in order to keep response times low for residents. Chief Cheeks explained the additional time needed from the, already generous, on-call volunteers as well, putting strain on these volunteers. Michelle Collette spoke on behalf of the Board, that the Groton Emergency Services has their support, and their wish is to be a help in any way they can, during this public emergency.

326 Cow Pond Rd, Justin & Kelly Frazier, Variance Request to State Sanitary Code 410.430 Habitable Rooms Other Than Kitchen-Natural Light and Electrical Outlets- Justin Frazier, homeowner, came before the Board to discuss his basement renovation project. Kalene Gendron asked about the size of windows in the space currently, and Evan Thackaberry confirmed that there are two exits from the space. Bob Fleischer asked about plans for ventilation, to which Mr. Frazier stated that he is installing a mini split to the area. Michelle Collette asked about the radon system, which the homeowner shared will become an active system, upgrading from a passive system. Bob Fleischer moved to approve the Variance Request to State Sanitary Code 410.430 Habitable Rooms Other Than Kitchen-Natural Light and Electrical Outlets for 326 Cow Pond Brook Rd, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

23 McCarthy Dr, Arabella Palma, Housing Code Compliance Updates, Continued- Kalene Gendron shared that she has issued a compliance letter for the residence, with all outstanding concerns being remedied. Michelle Collette moved to close the public hearing for 23 McCarthy Dr, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

45 West Main Street, Maxant-Schulz, Housing Code Compliance Updates, Continued- Ruth Maxant-Schulz, homeowner, was present to share updates to the unit in question, providing photos to the Board. Ms. Schulz shared that she is completing work while the unit is currently vacant, and gave details on some improvements to the space. She added that the expense of making the necessary improvements to get the

unit and property into compliance, either moving the electrical panels to an appropriate location, or installing a bulkhead, haven't been feasible due to cost. Ms. Schulz shared that with health issues she is looking for other options, if possible. The Board discussed options for the property, and suggested Ms. Schulz get in touch with the Building Commissioner, to ensure that any alternative remedy would meet building code and compliance. Evan Thackaberry suggested that, with the unit vacant, he would consider granting additional time for remediation. Ruth Maxant-Schulz stated that she will not be renting the unit until all items are remedied, and agreed that February 1st, 2025 would be a reasonable amount of time for an extension. Michelle Collette moved to continue the hearing for 45 West Main Street, to Monday February 3rd, 2025, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Health Agents Report- Kalene Gendron shared an update on the noise complaint for 240 Main Street, with the daytime sound study being completed by Emerson, additional testing to follow. Ms. Gendron shared a live questionnaire survey regarding opioids, encouraging all to consider providing feedback. Art Cheeks added that there is a flyer in the current GELD billing cycle with a QR code, with the survey taking about 5 minutes. There are also physical drop boxes for completed surveys in the Town Hall, Library and Council on Aging. Kalene Gendron shared information on a symposium she attended recently on illegal narcotics, as well as a presentation she attended on the drought impacting the area. Chief Cheeks shared information on the major increase in fire calls due to the drought, though, with the recent precipitation, and change in the season, things have improved. Kalene Gendron noted that the usage of private wells for irrigation during droughts is something to consider when reviewing well regulations in the future. Michelle Collette shared with the Board that the FY26 Board of Health budget has been submitted to the Town Manager, with an increase of \$2000.00 for water quality testing.

Sign permits/ invoices- There were no invoices or permits for signature.

Minutes- Bob Fleischer moved to accept the minutes of 18 November 2024, as submitted, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting- The Board of Health will meet on Monday, December 16th, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Groton Town Hall in the 1st Floor meeting room.

Michelle Collette moved to adjourn at 7:37pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 1/6/25
