



TOWN OF GROTON

Board of Health
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Date: Monday September 15st, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Groton Town Hall, 173 West Main St Groton, MA 01450

Members Present: Michelle Collette, Robert Fleischer

Members Absent: Evan Thackaberry

Others Present: Kalene Gendron, Ed Snyder

Robert Fleischer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.- Mr. Fleischer reviewed the agenda.

16 West Main Street, Snyder Swimming Pools Inc., Variance Request for Swimming Pool Regulations- Ed Snyder presented to the board that the owner is requesting an automatic cover in place of a fence. The reason is that the pool is being installed at the end of the driveway, and they believe a fence would restrict snow removal. There are wetlands on the property, and they have gone through the Conservation Commission.

Bob Fleischer asked if the Building Commissioner had been consulted and whether everything meets building code. Mr. Snyder confirmed.

Michelle Collette asked about the layout and the potential for ongoing snow buildup issues. Mr. Snyder pointed out the planned patio and explained the snow removal plan.

Kalene Gendron asked about the distances to the septic tank, sewer line, and town water. The questions were answered.

Michelle Collette made a motion that the board grant the variance for the swimming pool to be installed at 16 West Main Street, as described in the letter dated August 25, 2025, from Edward Snyder of Snyder Swimming Pools. Robert Fleischer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kalene Gendron stated that the variance needs to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

240 Main Street, Noise Updates Continued- Michelle Collette informed the board that a letter was received from attorney Bob Collins requesting a continuation until the next meeting. Since Ms. Collette is abstaining and a member is not present, the board was unable to discuss the matter due to a lack of quorum on the topic.

Michelle Collette made a motion to move the discussion of 240 Main Street to the next meeting on October 6, 2025. Robert Fleischer seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Kalene Gendron informed the board that the owner had signed for the order via certified mail.

177 Kemp Street, Discussion Continued- Kalene Gendron reminded the board that the building is in disrepair. She stated that she has met with the Fire Chief and the Building Commissioner, and that the building has been placarded by the Building Commissioner. She noted that all questions should be directed to the Building Department.

23 Cypress, Enforcement Order- Kalene Gendron stated that in her absence, her supervisor, Jim Garreffa, conducted a housing inspection of the property and that an enforcement order has been issued. He has been in communication with the property owner.

Ms. Gendron reviewed the enforcement letter that was sent to the property owner. The property owner has submitted a written request to the board asking for an extension of a couple of months. Ms. Gendron shared that she feels this is a reasonable request, as the critical corrections have already been made.

Michelle Collette asked whether any of the remaining corrections are critical and need to be completed before winter. Ms. Gendron reviewed the elements that are time-sensitive.

Michelle Collette made a motion that the board grant the extension until November 3rd, with a request for an update on progress at the meeting on October 6th. Robert Fleischer seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Hazardous Materials Application- Michelle Collette requested that some formatting changes be made to the application. Bob Fleischer asked if the topographical plan should be mandatory; Ms. Collette responded that the applicant should include it in most cases. She also stated that the location source should be included. Kalene Gendron suggested removing the documents required for DEP from the application. Other improvements were also discussed.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Health Agent's Report and Correspondence- Kalene Gendron stated that regarding 401 Nashua Road, she and Bridgette Pontbriand had conducted a site visit and participated in a conference call with the USDA.

She believes the board should proceed with a site assignment, as in her opinion, this is a custom processing operation. Michelle Collette agreed and stated that this approach made sense.

Ms. Gendron added that the next step is to contact the applicant to let them know that most of the board's questions have been answered, and that a letter outlining the next steps should be sent.

Robert Fleischer asked if this was a slaughtering operation. Ms. Gendron clarified that it is a custom processing operation. She recommended that the board move forward with pursuing a site assignment, which she explained is a lengthy process involving multiple departments.

Mr. Fleischer asked what a site assignment is. Ms. Gendron explained that although she has never conducted one herself, other health agents in the district have. It is a formal process defined by statute and requires a hearing.

Michelle Collette made a motion that the board allow the Health Agent to follow up with the owner, Kareem, at 401 Nashua Road regarding the status of his operation, provide him with information from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health titled Food Protection Program Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, and to begin the process of pursuing a site assignment. Robert Fleischer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gendron also reported that the health survey is still active and that they are aiming for 50 responses from each town. Groton currently has 46 responses, and she hopes the town can reach the goal of 50.

She noted that the vaccine clinic is being conducted through a third party and includes RHV, COVID, and flu shots. Groton's clinic is scheduled for September 24th.

Regarding mosquito activity, she reported that Groton is currently at a low risk for EEE but at a moderate risk for West Nile Virus (WNV), with WNV numbers trending upward.

Michelle Collette mentioned that registering for the clinic is difficult. Ms. Gendron responded that she would notify the appropriate parties about the issue.

Sign permits/ invoices- An invoice was signed.

Minutes- No Minutes.

Schedule Next Meeting- The Board of Health will meet on Monday, October 6th, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room 173 Main St.

Michelle Collette moved to adjourn at 7:10pm, Bob Fleischer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Micaela Moore, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 10/6/2025
