



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 October 6th, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Members Present: Michelle Collette, Robert Fleischer, Evan Thackaberry

Members Absent:

Others Present: Kalene Gendron, Micaela Moore, Ed Snyder, Alison Eydenberg, Bill Rand, Peter Carbutt, Bob Collins, Judy Anderson

Robert Fleischer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.- Mr. Fleischer reviewed the agenda.

28 Charles Road, Snyder Swimming Pools Inc., Variance Request for Swimming Pool Regulations- Ed Snyder stated that the client is looking to use an automatic cover because of the cost and their belief that it will be safer for their family. Kalene Gendron asked for clarification on the distance from the well. Mr. Snyder stated that the distance requirement will be met. Evan Thackaberry moved that the variance request for the automatic pool cover for 28 Charles Road, as outlined in the plans dated September 19, be granted. Michelle Collette seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

240 Main Street, Noise Updates Continued- Michelle Collette recused herself from this topic and left the room. Bob Collins stated that sound-deadening materials would be installed to reduce the sound, along with other details of the work to be done. Mr. Collins stated that he would be going in front of the HDC in a couple of weeks to ensure they did not have a problem with the plans. Evan Thackaberry asked if a sound measurement would be taken after it was installed. Mr. Collins said he believed it would be required with that permit. He also stated his belief regarding the regulations and how he believed they applied.

Mr. Collins suggested that the town could enact a noise ordinance and noted that the issue of mechanicals and noise levels often arose with projects such as schools. He believed this was not a unique situation. He stated that the 24-hour operation of these machines had made this an issue. Mr. Thackaberry stated that the machinery was new, so it was subject to these noise regulations. Mr. Collins stated that it was a very complicated situation but believed the board should adopt something to address the issue. He believed the town was fortunate that the building was being reviewed and that it was not left to fall into disrepair. Mr. Collins stated that Emerson and the building owner would work to address the issue.

Kalene Gendron asked if Mr. Collins was still trying to rescind the order. Mr. Collins stated that he was still requesting that the order be extinguished, but he understood waiting until the work was completed. Ms. Gendron stated that the permit would have needed to be submitted the next day according to the order. Bill Rand asked the board not to rescind the order and stated that the regulation did apply to the building and this situation.

Mr. Collins, Mr. Rand, and Alison Eydenberg had a disagreement regarding the MASSDEP regulation and how it applied to this situation. Ms. Eydenberg asked for clarification about the enforcement order. Mr. Fleischer explained its purpose and why it would be rescinded after the requirements had been met. Ms. Eydenberg asked for the dates to be maintained.

Mr. Collins stated that a building permit would be submitted that week, but the project had to go to the HDC. Ms. Gendron stated that they were past the deadline to submit the permit. Mr. Thackaberry asked what the fines would have been for the permit not being submitted. Ms. Gendron stated that the fines had not yet been established. Mr. Thackaberry stated that, since this topic could not be discussed at the last meeting, it would be fair to amend the order to allow until Friday for the permit to be submitted.

Evan Thackaberry made a motion to amend the enforcement order to extend the permit submittal deadline until October 10. Bob Fleischer seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously with the two members present.

Mr. Rand and Ms. Eydenberg asked the board about fines and requested the maximum fines if the enforcement order was not followed. Mr. Thackaberry stated that he would take that recommendation into consideration. Mr. Rand requested the plans Emmerson had submitted. Ms. Eydenberg asked how long it could be until the work was completed; she was informed that at that time there was no timeline due to different variables. The board stated that this could be followed up on later.

23 Cypress, Update- Micaela Moore stated that she had not heard anything. Ms. Moore sent the letter, but that was a request, not a requirement. Kalene Gendron stated that Jim Garreffi had received an update and that it was slow-moving, but they had received an extension to November.

Discussion of Chapter 319 Pools- Michelle Collette informed the board that there had been discussion about whether this was a Board of Health issue or a building issue. Bob Fleischer asked if these regulations could be dropped. Kalene Gendron stated that these variances came up frequently and expressed difficulty understanding why the Board of Health was involved with private swimming pools. Mr. Fleischer suggested that the board hold a hearing to consider dropping these regulations. Ms. Collette suggested that the building commissioner be consulted. The board discussed other matters that would be affected if the regulations were removed. The board agreed to schedule a public hearing.

Review of SDS Regulations- Kalene Gendron brought to the board's attention that some of these regulations could be revisited and that she was often questioned about them. She stated that her highest priority changes were highlighted in pink. Michelle Collette asked if Ms. Gendron had considered language changes. Bob Fleischer stated that two engineers had been consulted the last time the regulations were changed.

Ms. Gendron informed the board of the changes she would recommend, such as not setting specific months for test holes, the differences between Title V regulations and Groton's regulations, the pump system requirements not being necessary, and the I/A systems leach field requirements. Mr. Fleischer stated that he thought these regulations were intended to improve the life of the system.

Ms. Gendron also brought up abutter notification. Ms. Collette stated that they should use 300 feet, while Mr. Fleischer stated that having a set number was more concrete. The board agreed to schedule this public hearing at the same meeting as the Chapter 319 Pools public hearing.

Hazardous Materials Application- Michelle Collette stated that she liked the format of the application. Micaela Moore went over the changes she had made. Michelle Collette made a motion that the board adopt the soil importation permit application as presented at the meeting on October 6, 2025. Evan Thackaberry seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Health Agent's Report and Correspondence- Kalene Gendron stated that the flu clinics were ongoing and were going well. 401 Nashua Rd., also known as Nadia Farms, was currently being discussed with Town Council to produce a letter for a site assignment.

Sign permits/ invoices- Invoices were signed for GELD and GFS.

Minutes- Michelle Collette made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15. Evan Thackaberry seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Schedule Next Meeting- The Board of Health will meet on Monday, October 20th, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room 173 Main St.

Evan Thackaberry moved to adjourn at 7:34pm, Michelle Collette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Micaela Moore, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 11/3/2025
