

Becket Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket Ma.01223

Board Members present: Gale LaBelle, Howard Lerner.

Board Members absent: Laurel Burgwardt

Public Present: Robert Ronzio, Susan Schneider, Herbert Dickson, Jeanne Pryor, Jacqueline Noss, Colleen O'Connor, Deborah Litvaitis.

Meeting is opened at 10:07 am.

Ms. LaBelle opens the meeting at 10:07 stating the date and time. Ms. LaBelle advises that there are agendas on the table for anyone who wants them.

Ms. LaBelle advises that this meeting is being held in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws regarding Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection as well as the bylaws of Town of Becket. All decisions require approval of a majority of the quorum of the Board of Health members present. Motions ending in a tie will not be acted upon until such a time as a majority can be achieved. In usual cases the Rule of Necessity may be invoked to reach a decision.

Ms. LaBelle goes on to introduce the board members present. Ms. LaBelle explains the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A subsection 20, and asks if anyone in the audience is going to make an audio or video recording of this meeting, Ms. Heather Hunt, Ms. Jeanne Pryor and Mr. Bob Ronzio all clearly state that they are recording the meeting.

Lastly, Ms. LaBelle advises the public present that it is the intention of the board to proceed with the posted agenda in the order in which the items are listed, and again reminds all present that agendas are available for anyone who wants one. Ms. LaBelle advises that everyone has the right to attend this meeting and observe the board as it deliberates but the public does not have the right to speak out or participate as they see fit.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes- Ms. LaBelle advises that this will be tabled until November 4th when a full board can be present.

Public Hearing- Charles and Elizabeth Riiska, 43 Brook Lane. Map 205 Lot 26.

Ms. LaBelle advises that the public hearing will be continued until October 28th at 10:00AM.

Old Business- 334 Winter Drive-Ms. Jacqueline Noss advises that she bought the Winter Drive property in 2013 and that a tight tank was put in. She states that she was never informed of any deed restriction. Ms. Susan Schneider submits a Title V for the property being discussed, stating that it had been sent to her a while ago. Ms. Noss states that she purchased the property with a failed septic system and was told that a new system equal to the current system is to be installed. Ms. Noss advises that Duquette Excavating put in the system and that Berkshire Engineering did the plan. Ms. Noss goes on to explain that 6 months later she found out there was a restriction. Ms. Noss presents a letter to the Board of Health, written by her attorney, Harris Aaronson, stating that she is not in violation. Ms. Noss states that she had no idea that she was going to have a 6 month restriction on staying in her home. Ms. Noss also explains that when she purchased the home from Mrs. Demers, she was given \$3500. Member of the public, Colleen O' Connor states that the former Board of Health needs to be held responsible and accountable for their actions. Mr. Ronzio states that Ms. Noss is being singles out and asks why? He further states that he has provided the Board members with the Rules and Regulations when it comes to tight tanks and they need to be read. Ms. LaBelle advises that she will be contacting the Town Attorney as well as BRPC. Ms. Noss advises Ms. LaBelle that she has no problem pumping the tank again and that she plans on staying at her house. Ms. Noss explains that the upgrade to her system can cost up to \$20,000. Mr. Ronzio advises her to get three estimates. Mr. Lerner makes a motion to allow Ms. Noss to use her property on a temporary 90 day finite time, for personal use only. Ms. LaBelle seconds the motion; Unanimous Approval. Ms. Noss notifies the board members that tight tank is less than 100 feet away from her well. Mr. Herbert Dickson (343 Winter Drive) asks about the 100 foot regulation; stating that his system is 100 feet from his well. Mr. Lerner states that this is a non-issue. Mr. Lerner also advised that going forward he would like to see quarterly pumping records. Mr. Ronzio states that letters need to be sent to all individuals that are not currently in compliance.

Plans to be reviewed by the Board- Board members agree to table the review of the plans until next week, further stating that they need to hire a Health Agent as quickly as possible.

Public Input- Ms. Colleen O'Connor states that it her opinion that the Septic System at the Becket School is in failure. Ms. O'Connor states that the local Board of Health should consider declaring her system in failure as well.

Mr. Ronzio reads and reviews a list of properties with Board of Health members that need immediate BOH attention; either needing their systems crushed or their wells need to be capped. He states that he has informed members of such issues numerous times and that he wants to see something done. Mr. Ronzio further states that there are many properties in Becket that are currently collapsed or waiting to be demolished, Mr. Ronzio calls for immediate action to be taken.

Mr. Lerner brings a brochure of a residential sharps collection, and discussed possibly having one local in Becket. Ms. LaBelle expresses concern for the costs of running such a program to include scheduling pick-up and delivery of the product.

Tobacco Regulations- Board members briefly discuss changing the legal age for buying tobacco products from age 18 to age 21. Ms. LaBelle advises that she plans to ask the Board of Selectmen to weigh in on this issue as well.

11:55 AM- Adjournment: Mr. Lerner makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. LaBelle seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Schedule next meeting for October 28th 2015 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Hunt

Laurel Burgwardt

Date

Gale LaBelle

Date

Howard Lerner

Date