

Board of Health Minutes for December 14, 2012

Present at meeting:

Bruce J. Hunchard, Chairman
Donald Ranieri, Jr., Vice-Chair
Philip M. Brunelli, Secretary

David McKearney, RS, Health Director
Virginia McNeil, Health Agent

Visitors present:

Roy Callan, Camp Haiastan
Peter Glick, SMMA
Haig Bachakjian, Camp Haiastan
Don Nielsen, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

A motion was made by Bruce Hunchard and seconded by Donald Ranieri to accept the November 6, 2012 meeting minutes. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

OLD BUSINESS

The Chairman opened the floor for old business. The Health Director updated the Board on the status of 72 Grove Street. The sewer tie in should be completed by the end of December.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman opened the floor to new business. The first item on the agenda was a local upgrade approval of an alternative to perc testing for 6 Mercer Lane. The Chairman asked the Health Director for his recommendation. The Health Director stated at the time of the perc the ground water was very high. Therefore his recommendation would be to allow the local upgrade. The Board voted unanimously to approve the local upgrade alternative to perc testing at 6 Mercer Lane.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the Camp Haiastan septic system. On September 12, 2012 the Franklin Health Department staff witnessed percolation testing and deep test hole excavations at Camp Haiastan with Peter Glick from SMMA. The camp is proposing to construct a new shower/bathroom facility which is to be tied into this new septic system. At the present time one septic system is in failure. The camp director, Roy Callan, has been exploring his options to upgrade his septic system. The Board of Health has made a recommendation for the camp to look at the feasibility of connecting to the town sewer system. Given that the camp has two public drinking wells onsite further complicates the issue. One of the existing wells is in close proximity to the failed septic system as well.

The Health Director has been in contact with David Boyer at Mass DEP for guidance regarding the camp's situation. Mr. Boyer stated that any increase in flow of the facility requires that all individual systems be connected to the new proposed septic system.

Haig Bachakjian, from Camp Haiastan, said he did research the option of connecting to the municipal sewer system and found it to be cost prohibitive. Since the entire cost has to be funded by donations, they are exploring all their options. The Health Director also said if flows were increased to 10,000 gallons, then the camp would be required to file for a groundwater discharge permit with MA DEP per 314 CMR 5.00. Also flows less than 10,000 gallons per day in nitrogen sensitive areas may be subject to the Groundwater Protection regulations as well.

Mr. Peter Glick, the engineer who has been working with the camp, stated that the size of a septic system required for an overnight camp was 35 gallons per day per person. According to his calculations it would be $200 \text{ (the number of staff and campers)} \times 35 = 7,000 \text{ gallons/day}$.

Mr. Glick found soils that were suitable on the property to locate a new system outside of the IWPA.

The Board Chairman stated that Town Council approval is required for the extension of the sewer. Also he has spoken to the Town Engineer, and he is on board with the sewer tie-in.

The Board Chairman asked Mr. Callan what prompted the septic system upgrade. Mr. Callan said that when they looked into building a new shower facility a Title V was required for all existing systems. That was when one of the systems was found to be in failure. Since the Title V was done in August of 2012, the camp has 24 months from that date to resolve the issue.

Mr. Glick asked what the next step would be in submitting a new septic system plan. The Health Director stated it would depend on what direction the Board wants the camp to go as they have the ultimate authority.

Mr. Bachakjian did not understand why the camp would be required to tie in all the existing systems to the new larger system and the Health Director said if you increase flows it is required by DEP. It is also ultimately a local decision as well. Given all the variables, the location of the wells, the failed system, the ages of the existing systems, the Health Department is bound to make decisions that impact public health and the environment.

Mr. Bachakjian asked if they could have permission to design a system to accommodate a 7,000 gallons/day flow, put the leaching field in now, but have the Board give them a period of time to tie in the existing systems at some point in the future. The camp would put in the new bathroom facility and connect to the new system and then gradually connect the rest of the camp. This would get them up and running. The failed system would be decommissioned so it would no longer impact the well zone. This would give the camp time to budget for the rest of the septic tie in. The Board Chairman felt that as long as they were excavating, all the existing septic systems should be tied in at the same time; that is if the Board was so inclined to let them put a system like that in.

In conclusion, Mr. Callan inquired if they were to submit a septic plan that met the requirements of the Board could that be step one; and step two; a tiered tie in process.

The Health Director stated that he could approve the septic plan but policy decisions would be deferred to the Board. The Health Director recommended that when designing the new system, to be mindful of future growth of the camp.

Mr. Bachakjian asked the Board to consider the concept of a phased tie in of all existing systems as a beneficial concession to the Board. The Board Chairman felt a concession would be letting them put in a new system instead of connecting to town sewer. The Board has always been a proponent of sewer and believes Franklin should be one hundred percent sewer.

The Health Director said the Board needs to make a decision to either compel them to tie into town sewer or allow a new septic system.

The Board Chairman tabled the discussion.

The next item discussed was the site plan for Franklin TV located at 23 Hutchinson Street. A motion was made by Bruce Hunchard and seconded by Donald Ranieri. The Board voted unanimously to accept the site plan as written subject to municipal water and sewer connection, and proper dumpster location.

A private definitive subdivision plan for Hoffmann Farms located on Daniels Street was the next item discussed. A motion was made by Bruce Hunchard and seconded by Donald Ranieri to approve the plan subject to a Title V compliant septic system and private domestic well.

The Board Chairman acknowledged receipt of the National Grid 45 Day Yearly Operational Plan Public Notice.

The last item on the agenda was the Health Director's Monthly Report for the month of November 2012. The Health Director updated the Board members on the monthly inspections.

The Chairman opened the floor to other new business. There was none.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous. The next Board of Health meeting will be on Friday, January 4, 2013 at 10:00 am in room 205.

Transcribed by Virginia McNeil, Health Agent for the Franklin Health Department.