

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 27, 2014**

**ATTENDEES: Robert O'Hanley, Member  
Richard Lombard, Member  
Charlotte Parker, Member  
Deborah Ketchen, Health Agent  
Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.**

Meeting Open: 1:04 PM

**AGENDA:**

The first item on the agenda is 904 Salem St., Tea Garden Restaurant septic system. Jin Fa Hu, owner, was in attendance at the Board's request. The health agent told the Board that she learned there was a problem with the grease trap in December. Jin said he first noticed a little water (pooling) on the leach field last December and the first thing he did was call R. A. Briscoe, Inc. because Jin said he installed the system. Jin said that he knows he uses a lot of water in his restaurant and he instructed his employees to conserve water whenever possible. Jin told the Board he has installed low flow toilets, repaired dripping faucets and has installed energy efficient dishwashers. Richard asked the health agent if she knows what the exact problem is with the system. Deborah said that she was on site with R. A. Briscoe and he opened the grease trap and it was clogged. Briscoe said that he thinks the leach field is saturated and the entire system is clogged because the grease trap is not functioning properly. Richard asked Jin about his maintenance of the septic system. Jin told the Board the grease trap is pumped every 6 weeks and the septic tank twice per year. The health agent told the Board that Briscoe had his engineer on site and the engineer told her that the system is gone. Bob said that he was concerned that if Jin is reducing water usage that proper cleaning may not be done and that could result in people getting sick. Jin said he really cares about the people that come to eat at his restaurant and I will do whatever I have to do so that doesn't happen.

Jin told the Board that he is worried about the septic because it is a whole new septic system and Jin said it cost \$70,000. Jin asked the Board if they knew when sewer would be extended to Salem St. so that he could tie his restaurant into town sewer. The Board told Jin they did not know and he would have to ask the water and sewer department. The Board told Jin that they would like a written report from an engineer of his choice. The Board told Jin they need to know the exact problem(s) and a plan of remediation. The Board stated they would like the engineer's report for the next Board meeting on March 24.

The second item on the agenda is 866 Salem St. The health agent told the Board that she performed a perc test on this property on 12/4/13. Deborah told the Board that the engineer was John Pettis, Bradford, MA and he completed the town perc application and paid the \$160.00 town fee. Deborah said on 2/18/14 she received a phone call from the deceased's daughter (Lorraine Ringette) stating that she did not authorize the perc test at her mother's property. Deborah told Ms. Ringette that she would investigate the matter. Deborah said she called the engineer and John Pettis told her he was hired by Davco Excavation, Bradford, MA. Deborah said she called Davco Excavation and they have not returned her call. Richard and Charlotte interrupted and said that they felt the Board of Health fulfilled their requirement performing the perc test and retaining the town fee and other issues do not involve this Board.

The third item on the agenda is restaurant inspections performed by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. The Board voted, by unanimous vote, to hire a qualified food establishment inspector from the list of inspectors provided to the Board by MVPC and their inspector will inspect all restaurant establishments in the town for June FY14 with the \$2,000.00 for inspection fees that was appropriated by the Finance Committee. The Board asked Lori to contact MVPC to start this process.

The last item on the agenda is Board of Health septic system documents stored in the computer. Bob told the Board that a representative from MVPC recently attended a planning board meeting to discuss how the town and its various departments can begin to implement the scanning of documents to be placed on discs and stored in the computer. The Board was in agreement that the town needs to do this. Bob said he would arrange for the Board of Health to attend this presentation.

**PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL:**

None at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2:25 PM