

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 8, 2009

The Board of Health held a meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Members present were Tom Philippou, Lorin Johnson, Jack Spero, Jay Wallace (62 Old Mill Road) Debra Skauen-Hinliff (221 Still River Road) and Kathy Bunnel (Harvard Press).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Business was as follows:

Evergreen Solar – Discussion

Jay Wallace appeared before the Board to discuss the continued complaint against Evergreen Solar. Jay presented information to the Board with regards to the new measurement techniques Evergreen is using and presenting to the DEC. He has been trying to make a presentation to the DEC and has followed all procedures including providing written comments. These comments were not read and he feels that the DEC is not listening to the residents affected. He is requesting the Board make an appeal to the DEC to be heard regarding the complaints from the Harvard residents.

Jay stated that the person this seems to be affecting the most is Janice Perry. Her farm is situated so that it gets the brunt of the noise and has noticed that “it is as if she has had a stroke and cannot make complete sentences.” This type of sound vibrates your internal organs and could cause larger issues. Janice has not gotten much relief since this whole issue began.

The Board reviewed the drawings that Jay presented with the noise monitor locations. There is a 200’ discrepancy in the lot lines depicted on the DEC provided sketch. Questions exist as to whether the monitors should be placed higher to get a more accurate measurement. DEC has basically approved the guidelines for measurement techniques, as its ‘noise protocol’, which Jay feels are inadequate to address the noise issue. He does not feel that the DEC commissioners are being told the whole story and would like the Board to step in and try to appear before the DEC regarding these new guidelines. Jay feels that Evergreen wants to do what is best but they are unsure what is needed, and he is concerned the next steps may be costly and therefore unlikely to be pursued. He recommended that the Board to speak with all of the surrounding towns affected by DEC and see if we can reach a consensus as to how to proceed.

After a discussion, the Board agreed to put together a meeting between the Ayer and Shirley BOH chairs and all other concerned parties. This meeting will take place on Monday, December 14 2009 at the Old Library at 7pm if all parties can attend.

Minutes

Jack Spero made a motion to accept the minutes of November 24, 2009 as amended. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 3-0 to approve.

Jack Spero made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Tom Philippou seconded. The vote was 3-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Large, Clerk