

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 10, 2009

The Board of Health held a meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hildreth House. Members present were Tom Philippou and Lorin Johnson. Others present were Shanna Large (Clerk), Ira Grossman, R.S. (NABH), Chris Ashley (Town Center Septic Task Force), Carlene Phillips (7 Oak Hill), Ruth Silman (114 Bolton Road), Lisa Aciukewicz (61 Depot Road), Joyce Garrick (73 Slough Road), sue and Worth Robbins (115 Massachusetts Avenue), Adam Horowitz (53 Woodchuck Hill Road), Debra Skauen-Hinchcliffe (221 Still River Road) and Kathy Bunnell (Harvard Press).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Business was as follows:

Town Center Septic Task Force

Chris Ashley came before the Board to discuss the proposed plans for the Town Center Septic. He explained to the Board what the Town Center Task Force had been researching and how they came to the conclusion of this present proposal. This proposal's price is estimated at somewhere between \$1.8 million and \$2.2 million in cost which will mainly be absorbed through a betterment for the town center home/business owners. The Board questioned the amount of homeowners/business owners who have expressed a desire for this proposal and there was no clear explanation even though these townspeople would be absorbing most of the cost of this project. The Board continued to express concern for the homeowners/business owners who would be hit with this betterment and asked for the group to find out this information.

Other Items discussed included the cost of repair/upgrade to the system as it ages, apportionment of repair costs, effects of potential backflow check valve failure, the yearly cost for the owners, what kind of equipment for this system would the homeowners/business owners be responsible for, and how much would the other taxpayers of the town pay. Also, the Board questioned Chris about the Board having to force connectivity to the system for all who were affected. Chris stated that the Board of Health would not be responsible for forcing the connectivity. When asked about whether there had been a demonstrated need to compel the creation of this sewer system, Chris replied that his task force had not been charged with determining a need, only to review options to address the implementation of a sewer system. When further questioned about the "town needs" in the past Warrant Article 14, Chris mentioned that the needs are "nebulous".

In the end, the Board reinforced the importance of getting 100% buy in from the people affected prior to finalization of planning, as well as the need for a Sewer Commission to control this project and maintain the system.

Chris told the Board about the next public meeting they are holding for this proposal which will be held on March 19, 2009 at 7pm in Volunteers Hall. He also stated they are trying to keep the Town of Harvard website current with all of the information regarding this proposal. Chris also stated that the Task Force will try to keep the Board up to date on its actions.

Horowitz, Harvard General Store - Discussion

Adam Horowitz and Attorney Ruth Silman, as well as the previous owner and members of the Harvard Press, came before the Board to discuss the Harvard Press moving to the third floor of the Harvard General Store. He explained his connection with the Press to the Board as an advisor and more recently an owner who is looking to cut costs in order for the paper to make it in these tough economic times. Adam explained that he felt since the building at one time housed many other businesses, sometimes pushing the employee level to 27 employees in the building, that this would not be anything different than what had been done in the past. He also stated that based on his information the system that had been installed had an approximate capacity of 400 gpd, and would be well within the limits currently imposed on business by title 5.

Ira stated that this would be a change in use from what the original 1971 upgrade permit had allowed which was 3-5 employees or that for a single family home. What they are now proposing would be a change in use according to Title 5. He also reminded Adam that the permitted conditions were clear in the permit, as approved, and that it was not possible to alter it.

Attorney Silman stated that the General store has always wanted to be transparent in what was occurring and that this space has always been used for an office space. She stated that they feel they are well within the bounds of Title 5 and the 1971 permit for the Subsurface Disposal System (SDS). The only extra employees on the third floor would be 2 employees with a total amount of man hours totaling 100 per week. They feel that current improvements to the overall building including new grease traps and better quality control of what enters the system should show that they are very conscience of the limits on the SDS.

At this time the Board requested more time to research the existing permit and find more information regarding this proposed move. Adam requested that the Harvard Press be allowed temporary occupancy of the third floor since they have vacated their rental space. After a brief discussion, Tom Philippou made a motion to allow the Harvard Press a temporary thirty day occupancy within the Harvard General Store building until the Board can make a more permanent decision regarding this move. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 2-0 to approve.

The Board will allow Ira to serve as the intermediary for any discussion between now and their next meeting where this topic will be discussed again, March 24, 2009 at 7:15pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

O'Brien, 7 Still River Road - Discussion

The Board reviewed a letter requesting a one year extension for the well connection for the above property. Ira stated that they have had several years to complete this project and feels no extension should be granted. Tom Philippou made a motion to grant a 90-day extension for the well connection for the above property. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 2-0 to approve.

Minutes

Tom Philippou made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009 and February 24, 2009 as amended. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 2-0 to approve.

Tom Philippou made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 2-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Large, Clerk