

Seekonk Board of Health

Meeting Minutes July 5, 2017

Call to order 7:02 pm

A meeting of the Seekonk Board of Health was held at Seekonk Town Hall, Planning Board Meeting Room on July 5, 2017.

Attendees Included:

- Victoria Kinniburgh RN, Chairman
- Jonathan Schiller MD, Vice-Chairman
- Guy Boulay, Clerk
- Kyle Corbin, DC
- Jessica Horsman B.S., R.N., Health Agent

Attendees Absent:

Richard Perry

Reorganization of the Board of Health

Motion: By Guy Boulay, to nominate Victoria Kinniburgh RN as Chairwoman of the Seekonk Board of Health.

Second: Kyle Corbin DC

In Favor: Guy Boulay, Kyle Corbin DC and Jonathan Schiller MD.

Opposed: None

Abstained: Victoria Kinniburgh RN

Motion: By Guy Boulay, to nominate Jonathan Schiller MD as Vice-Chairman of the Seekonk Board of Health.

Second: Kyle Corbin DC

In Favor: Guy Boulay, Kyle Corbin DC and Victoria Kinniburgh RN .

Opposed: None

Abstained: Jonathan Schiller

Motion: By Kyle Corbin DC, to nominate Guy Boulay as Clerk of the Seekonk Board of Health.

Second: Jonathan Schiller MD.

In Favor: Kyle Corbin DC, Victoria Kinniburgh RN and Jonathan Schiller MD.

Opposed: None

Abstained: Guy Boulay

Consent Calendar

Approval of June 21 2017 Minutes of Meeting.

Tabled to next meeting.

Unfinished Business

None at this time

New Business

A. 74 Chestnut Hill Drive

Discussion regarding concerns over the septic system design.

Present: Mr. & Mrs. Ferrus, property owner and Dean Monsees, OSD Engineering.

Ms. Ferrus stated that she had concerns over the elevations of her septic system design. Ms. Ferrus has experienced water in her basements and believes that it is due to the elevations of the septic system. Ms. Ferrus has also contacted Dave Cabral, DPW Director to see if the Town could assist with drainage in the back yard. Ms. Ferrus has concerns over the stagnant water on her property. Ms. Ferrus stated that she was told that there was never any water in her basement when the home was purchased.

Ms. Horsman stated she reviewed the file with the Building Inspector; all the proper permits were pulled. All inspections were complete. The plumbing inspector signed off on the job.

Ms. Kinniburgh RN explained to Ms. Ferrus that the final landscaping of the property does not fall under the purview of the Health Department. This issue becomes a civil issue between the buyer and seller.

Dr. Schiller stated that he had issues with the standing water creating a mold and health issues. He agreed that there may be issues with the construction; however these issues do not fall under the purview of the Board of Health.

Mr. Boulay stated that he is very familiar with the area. Many homes in that area have water problems, due to a high water table. Many properties in that area have water in their basement. Mr. Boulay stated he can see how changing the topography could change the drainage on the property.

Dr. Corbin asked do they have a sump pump. Ms. Ferrus stated no, they did not have a sump pump.

Dr. Corbin stated that this has been an exceptionally wet spring. Dr. Corbin asked if it was actively flooding. Ms. Ferrus stated no, the flooding was consistent with heavy rains. The rain water was consistently coming through the foundation equally. Dr. Corbin asked are there any sewerage issues? Ms. Ferrus stated no, the toilets are flushing correctly and there are no odors. Dr. Corbin asked them if they believed that this was a civil issue. Ms. Ferrus stated that they contacted an attorney. The attorney stated that because the contract was between the previous homeowners and Mr. Foley, Ms. Ferrus had no valid reason to sue Mr. Foley for installation.

Ms. Horsman stated that there was a 40 minute per inch percolation and a 30 inch water table, which was contributing to the water in the basement.

Mr. Ferrus asked how could the Town of Seekonk could advertise installers and not oversee their work. Ms. Kinniburgh RN explained that we do not endorse installers. We post a list of installers who are licensed with the Town, we do not endorse. It was the previous homeowner's decision as to who was hired.

Mr. Ferrus stated he hopes that Mr. Foley does not start doing this on a regular basement. His work is sloppy. Mr. Ferrus need to know where to go from here. Ms. Horsman said she would be out first thing in the morning to look at the cover that was removed.

Ms. Kinniburgh RN stated they needed to work on putting in a drainage system along with a sump pump. Dr. Corbin stated that the downspouts should also be brought farther away from the house. This would help with the water in the basement.

Ms. Ferrus stated that she did speak with Mr. Cabral from DPW. He told her that she could apply for a permit to tie in to the storm water system.

Ms. Ferrus stated that she would like to work with Mr. Monsees to come up with a plan to rectify the situation. Mr. Ferrus was concerned that if nothing is done, their backyard would be a standing swamp.

Ms. Horsman stated that she would be there at 7am to look at the covers.

Dr. Corbin stated that their system was functioning correctly and this wasn't a septic system issue. They need to work to get the water away from the house and continue to spray for mosquitoes.

Dr. Schiller also stated that the downspouts were very close to the house. He believes that the downspouts should be brought out farther. There are also all natural ways to remove mosquitoes.

The board stated that they are all sympathetic to the situation; however this does not fall under the Board of Health Regulations.

Workshop Session

A. Regulation Review - No discussion, tabled.

Community Speaks

None at this time

Health Agent Report

126 Mohawk Drive – Court Date July 20th 2016 for pending violations.

24 Fairfield – All wrapped up, no sewerage issues

Narragansett Bay Committee – July 13th Meeting in regards about the bacteria counts in the Runnin's River.

Dumpster permitting has ended; we will begin issuing violations next week.

Cut off for permitting was July 1st. We did have two that came in 1 day late. Since the office was closed for the holiday, Ms. Horsman would like to allow these two to be granted the exemption. The board agreed that this was ok.

Board Comments and Correspondence

None at this time

Adjournment

8:26 pm

Motion: By Guy Boulay to adjourn.

Second: Kyle Corbin DC

In Favor: Victoria Kinniburgh RN, Jonathan Schiller MD, Guy Boulay and Kyle Corbin DC .

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Clerk

Date of approval