

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, August 16, 2010 6:45pm

Meeting called to order 6:45pm.

Present: Members; Linda Cocalis, John Degnan and Bob Audet and Health Agent, Alyssa Rusiecki.

**Hearing: Don Goya, “Table 3” new owner, Whistling Swan restaurant
Request for variance to the grease trap regulations, Section 2, outside grease
trap required.**

Present: Don Goya, applicant; Jeff Horn, representative; and Greg Morse, Town of Sturbridge DPW Director.

The applicant states that a site plan was done by Bertin Engineering and that there is not enough room to meet the setback requirements, especially with the existing landscaping and porch locations. There are other types of grease traps and Kittredge kitchen specialists recommended the “Thermaco Big Dipper” automatic grease trap. The Thermaco representative Jeff Horn is here to answer questions:

Mr. Horn states that while this system still requires manual scheduled daily maintenance, that it outperforms standard interior grease traps because the grease is separated into a small container, which makes it easier to access and maintain, (pour off daily). The inside filter must be emptied on daily basis because it catches food waste and separates it out. Technical questions are answered. Mr. Morse states that he is in favor but would like to re-visit the performance of the operation of the unit in six months; the Board and applicant agree. The applicant will have the sewer lines jetted upon or prior to installation so that a baseline is established. The Agent is not asked for a recommendation. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion to approve the variance and allow the installation of the alternative grease trap and re-inspect and re-evaluate its performance in six months from installation; Dr. Audet seconds. (Approved 3 – 0).

Administrative and Correspondence: August 2nd, 2010 minutes are approved, (3 – 0). The Board reviews the correspondence:

- **Wells State Park:** The letter from the Department of Public Health is reviewed regarding the State sanitary inspection for Wells State Park; the Agent states that she thought that the administrative assistant was told not to permit the Park as a campground, and this is not accurate. It has been clarified that Wells State Park must be permitted and inspected by local authority; no fee was charged this year because it was told to the Chairwoman that no inspections were done recently. The Agent stated that the process should be re-organized, with fees and inspections. The Board agrees.
- **Yogi Bear Pool Variance Follow-up:** The Board reviews the letter from the State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Department regarding their decision on the pool variance request submitted by the Yogi Bear Campground. Regarding the request for an explanation of the definition of an “unblockable” drain, the applicants will be required to obtain the definition decision from the Federal Safety Product

Commission and meet other State identified conditions set forth in a letter dated August 12, 2010.

- **Harrington Hospital new contract:** The Board reviewed the newly proposed contract with Harrington Hospital and noted that the rates have increased and our current budget is set through July 2011 and it is doubtful that the Board's current FY11 budget will cover these costs proposed by Harrington. The Board members will review other avenues and until such time this contract is signed, the rates should remain the same as last year. Dr. Audet questions the statement in the contract that requires the Town to turn over "clinical authority" to the staff of Harrington Hospital and states that this will cause difficulties if and when the Board of Health mobilizes nursing volunteers that are under the jurisdiction of the Sturbridge Board of Health. The Board members agree that this is another aspect which needs to be re-evaluated. The Agent states that the Board received an invoice for June activity and that a communicable disease was listed but that the Board of Health was not notified. It is not clear why Debra Vescera from Harrington did not contact the Board of Health, the Agent will call her.

Hearing, pool variance, Motel 6: Hearing continued for Motel 6 and vote repeated for proper posting; Motion to approve the variance, lack of main drain, 2nd, Voted (2 -1); Mr. Degnan votes no, and states that the pool installer should know the law for the commercial pool installations and agrees with the "step" process. Mr. Patel from Motel 6 also provided a quote in order to comply and prepare for the "step" process.

Emergency preparedness: Depiction software and consulting to be scheduled. See if the software can be put on the laptop.

Interdepartmental reviews: 178 Main St. (previous Ames location), (Tractor Supply and East Coast Job Lot) – Retail food permits required. **22 Mt. Dan Rd. SFH –** On sewer, no other Board of Health comment.

New Business: Mr. Degnan will attend a local tabletop exercise at the Local Emergency Planning Commission on August 26th; the Agent will attend the Region2 meeting of DPH Emergency Preparedness.

Old Business: Tight tank maintenance and operation follow-up. One of the irate owners had called Ms. Cocalis at home and Ms. Cocalis told the owner the same thing that the Agent had instructed – to get copies of the pump out reports and to provide a statement that the property is seasonal. To date, this owner has not provided any of the documentation to the Board of Health. Mr. Degnan states that is another example of the Board of Health not having enough manpower to enforce the regulations. He suggests that a second round of letters be sent, if time allows.

Beach Testing: The Agent reports that one of the residential areas at Big Alum Lake reported a high coliform count and had to be temporarily closed. Unfortunately there is no requirement for individual owners near the property so hopefully the "closed" sign was observed by abutters.

Complaint of "orange" water at water-body near the old combination landfill (Sturbridge and Southbridge combined, now closed): A complaint came in from an anonymous party and was related by the Conservation Commission Agent. Ms. Cocalis states that this is the same complaint that came in a couple of years ago and on which Steve Mullen, previous Chairman, reviewed and did not find any evidence of pollution. Mr. Degnan states that he observed the coloration, as did Dr. Audet. This water-body is within close proximity to Rte 84. Mr. Booth also investigated and felt it could be natural iron leaching out of the soil. The Agent reported that the bi-annual testing required

by DEP does not show any contamination and testing will be repeated in September/October. Ms. Cocalis states that she heard a statement made that the Sturbridge Board of Health is “under investigation by the EPA” regarding our current landfill. Ms. Cocalis would like the record to show that the Board and its landfill is not under investigation by EPA, or DEP and that we are in compliance with DEP’s requirements.

Mr. Degnan states that he would like to repeat for the full Board, that he would like to encourage all Sturbridge restaurants to post the nutritional value of their meals.

Regarding the organization of personnel, Mr. Degnan suggests the matter be put into abeyance until another meeting at which there is more time.

Recycling Center/Landfill: “Smartplan” draft comments are put into abeyance. The reporter, Gus Steeves, asks about the nature of the legal matter, and it is stated that an appeal is with DEP regarding the changing of the permit of the Southbridge landfill. Ms. Cocalis states that she has new information. Ms. Cocalis clarifies that the defendant in the lawsuit is DEP, as well as the Town of Southbridge and Southbridge Recycling and Disposal Park, Inc. A copy of the filing may be obtained from the Worcester Superior Court.

Executive Session: Dr. Audet makes a motion to go into Executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation, legal strategy only to reconvene in regular session in order to adjourn. Ms. Cocalis seconds; a roll call vote is taken:

Ms. Cocalis, yes.

Mr. Degnan, yes.

Dr. Audet, yes.

The Board reconvenes in regular session.

Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:45pm, seconded, approved (3 – 0).

Submitted,

Alyssa Rusiecki
Public Health Agent