

MINUTES
Sturbridge
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014

Members present: Linda Cocalis, Richard Volpe, Sandra Fallon, Dawn Toon, Health Inspector. Norma Buckley, Clerk. Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki is absent on bereavement leave.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

HEARING REQUEST FOR VARIANCE 166 PODUNK RD – Ethan Hillman

The original address was given to Alyssa by Linda Cocalis as Bushnell Rd., Sturbridge, MA and not 166 Podunk Rd. which is the correct address.

◆ Ethan Hillman went to the BoH office and requested all information on the property at 166 Podunk Rd. Mr. Hillman is requesting a variance relative to the Sturbridge local regulations which are above and beyond Title 5, which were in effect, (since 1987). The variance request is for the perc rate and the expiration date.

Mr. Hillman feels that the local regulation is not legal and he himself is an attorney and he has also consulted an attorney. Linda states that the Board has been considering changing the local regulations and she would entertain a variance. She does not want to get sued.

A perc was done by Para Land Surveying in 2001 and passed with a rate of 16 minutes per inch and 19 minutes per inch. The septic plan was approved at that time, and has since expired per State Code. The 2001 perc test expired per local regulation. In November 2007, Cambridge Properties owned the property and Bertin Engineering did another perc. The perc was stopped after the first inch because it failed.

While he was not at the 2007 perc test, Mr. Hillman said that he was told that they were supposed to perc in a spot near the wetlands. There is discussion about what the “most restrictive condition,” means and that the testing done near the “inlet.”

Linda said if the Town had different requirements that the perc would have passed. The Board is willing to grant the variance, for either the rate or the date, and the Board will confer with the Agent upon her return later in the week.

Mr. Hillman is asked to follow the variance process by obtaining a list of abutters and notifying them in writing by Certified Mail providing them with ten days notice. A written request shall be made by the applicant to the Board of Health office for the next meeting.

Linda suggested again that the current local on-site sub-surface sewage system regulations be looked at and the BoH should follow the Title 5 regulations and the well regulations. Linda made a motion to grant variances and follow the Title 5 regulations unless it is above and beyond the Title 5 requirements. Richard Volpe 2nd the motion. APPROVED (3-0).

MINUTES: The minutes from the August 27, 2014 were read. Linda made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting. Sandra Fallon 2nd, the motion. APPROVED (2-0) Richard Volpe abstained from voting.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT, (Dawn Toon):

COMPLAINTS

- ◆ 1738 House – 489 Main Street - Complaint from a tenant in unit 12 on something above leaking and running down the walls in bathroom and also there were a number of cats living above this unit.

INSPECTIONS & TASKS

- ◆ 1738 House – Main Street - Dawn did an inspection along with the Animal Control Officer. The owner had 10 cats in the apartment that had terrible urine smells that were apparent inside and outside the apartment. The owner agreed to surrender 7 of the cats. The Animal Control tried to take some of the cats but was unsuccessful in catching them as some of them were feral. Heart traps were set and Animal Control would go back in a couple of days to take them. A visit was done today Oct. 6, 2014 and they are down to 5 cats. Five of the cats went into the heart traps and one cat went out the window. There was also a mold issue in the apartment along with other apartment #27, 29, and 30 in the bathroom and a leak in the roof that needs to be repaired. An Order was sent to the new landlord on the problems to be addressed and he has 7 days to start to fix the problem and 30 days to complete it. Rich asked about the prior dumpster problems. Dawn said that the old problems had been addressed but there was still rubbish outside the dumpster.

FOOD

- ◆ New England Truck Stop - Talked with Richard and he wants information on cleaning the coffee pots and sanitizing them. Dawn will find information on this and send it to him. The popcorn machine was not being used and if it was going to be used it needed to be cleaned and also the hot dog machine was not being used and needed cleaning.
- ◆ Stop & Shop – Has a Pea Pod pickup in front of the store. Dawn will do a check on this and see if they are transporting food in trucks to other locations or just pick up at the store. Rich has seen the trucks and Linda said that we only approved pickup at the store not truck transporting.
- ◆ Ron Woolhouse and Dawn will be doing the fall Harvest Festival. They will also be doing the hotels. Linda wants to look into more hours to stay in compliance with the state law. Dawn is doing 70% normal and 30% ADHOC work.

RECYCLING CENTER/LANDFILL:

- ◆ The alarm went off on Sunday Oct. 5, 2014 at the Recycle Center. Linda was called and an officer was called to check it out. The alarm was re-set and there were no problems at the center.

CORRESPONDENCE:

According to Linda, a legal action has been served to some residents of South Shore Drive, and the Board of Health was listed but we were not served by the complainant, Gary Allard. The issue is that Mr. Allard wants the Town to be responsible for cleaning the culvert on his property. Linda is going to call Town Counsel as the BoH was not served.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD MEMBERS:

- ◆ Time logs: Linda checked to see if everyone is keeping track of their hours and would like them turned in on Monday from the week before.
- ◆ Plan review deadlines: The Board wants to streamline some of the issues in the department. If an engineer comes in and it is said that the BoH has 45 days to review a fully completed Disposal System Construction Plan for septic systems that the state that allows 45 days for a BoH to review the plans. The Board would like Alyssa to have the plans done in 10 days then if there is a problem the BoH will be notified. If Alyssa is overwhelmed with work another person will be asked to help. Additionally, if there is a disagreement with a septic designer, like Mark Farrell, then a third-party may be brought in to assist Alyssa.
- ◆ Scheduled office hours: The Board also wants a separate day, possibly Wednesday to be kept open for appointments with customers.
- ◆ Linda states that the work area is in question and a work order will be issued to Alyssa for an area space for Dawn. Dawn also asked if she could have some sort of a file cabinet to keep her information in as if she leaves it on the table when she comes back in the paperwork has been moved. The round table is not good and too crowded and meetings are not held at it. If meetings need to be done they can be done upstairs in the meeting room as the office is too crowded. The Board members will sticker all items to be taken out of the office. It is hard when Louise comes in and pushes Dawn's paper work out of the way, etc. leaving her no room to work. All professional periodicals should be sent to the Recycling Center. The office has to be cleaned and re-organized.
- ◆ The Board asked why Louise was even coming in and there is discussion regarding Louise's and Alyssa's work on the sub-region of the Medical Reserve Corps. There is concern regarding the separation of tasks and time of work to be done. Linda will follow-up.
- ◆ The Board brings up educational classes and workshops. Alyssa and Dawn will be going to Hyannis MA for the annual Health Officer's 3-day conference. Linda said that the classes need to be approved and the Board has to approve them. Linda states that Title 5 credits are good for three years and she does not think that the staff has to go to every year as the information does not change. After the annual conference at the end of October, all classes must be approved. It was suggested that some of these meetings should be attended on vacation days and not on workdays. Some of these courses are costly along with the hourly wage Alyssa is paid.

Linda made a motion to close the meeting; Rich Volpe 2nd the motion.

APPROVED (3-0).

Adjourned at 7:45 pm.