

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH
December 1, 2014

Present: Board members: Linda Cocalis, Sandra Fallon and Richard Volpe.

Also Present: Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki.

Chairman Linda Cocalis opens the meeting at 5:00PM

Appearance for 81 McGilpin Rd.

Marc Ghidoti, owner of a single family residence with a failed septic system at 81 McGilpin Rd., Sanitarian Mark Farrell, septic installer Jeff Helgerson.

Septic system is eleven years old and has failed. See Agent's previous letter, dated 11-20-2014, which stated that confirmatory soil evaluations and new location for the soil absorption system area is required. The Agent stated that she checked with the local Department of Environmental Protection (DEP-CERO Staff, Mr. Ostrosky) and the process identified in the Agent's letter was confirmed. Rich Volpe asked if that was in writing; the Agent stated it is not specifically in writing from DEP staff, but verbally, and her understanding of the Code.

Mark Farrell states that maybe the sand wasn't as good as it could have been ("5.4% passing 200 sieve as opposed to 5%") and he proposes to take out the failing pipes, stone and sand and replace everything in the same place. The Agent states that this will be precedent-setting and she recommends utilizing the Reserve Area because it is a "fresh" area of soil and is the process for a failed system per code, and the only reason to use the same area for replacement is because there is no other area. Mark Farrell and Jeff Helgerson state that replacement in the same area as the failed system occurs all of the time in other towns. Mark Farrell disagrees with the Agent and says that a requirement for a perc test/soil evaluation is not required in the Code and nor is the requirement to use the reserve area for failed system. Mark Farrell says that the leachfield, aka soil absorption system, is a "component" and may be replaced in place.

Mr. Ghidoti states that he called DEP-CERO Staff and Mr. Boyer told him that the local Board of Health could make that decision.

The Board agrees with Mark Farrell to not require any soil testing and to allow the replacement drainfield to be placed in the same area as the failed system. Per the Board's instruction, the plan as prepared by Mark Farrell, (signed/dated 11-10-14) will be stamped approved tomorrow in the Board of Health office.

Discussion for 181 Shepard Rd.

Sanitarian Mark Farrell, septic installer Jeff Helgerson. Linda asks if they are familiar with the property; they confirm that they are both are familiar with it. Linda states that we have a legal case on-going. Jeff did an evaluation of the topography at this site next to the existing septic system and sent a letter to the Board of Health saying he observed the bottom of the system to be "dry" and that "Staining was consistent with a line approximately 4 inches up from the bottom of the chamber. Stone observed through the walls of the chamber was iron colored above the four inch stained line." Mr. Helgerson, who is not a soil evaluator, continued that it is his opinion that the existing leach area is above ground water. And that "he shot

elevations from test pit #1, identified on a plan by Mark Farrell, RS of 'Green Hill Engineering' from 6/22/09 and revised 8/5/09." Linda states that the Order of the Court is for a new Title 5 Inspection to be conducted and witnessed by the Board of Health and additionally, a deep hole near the existing septic system shall be evaluated by a Soil Evaluator and witnessed by the Board of Health. Jeff is asked that if does any further work it must comply with the Court Order and to please call the Board of Health to make an appointment to have the work witnessed by a representative of the Board of Health.

Minutes reviewed:

November 3rd, 2014 minutes are reviewed, LC motion to approve, seconded RV. APPROVED (3 – 0).

November 17th, 2014 are reviewed, LC makes a motion to approve, seconded SF, APPROVED (3 -0).

Health Agent's report

(Attached). Linda told Alyssa that she talked with Dawn and wants to make sure that even if there is a special event on a day that Dawn works routine inspections, and then she would be paid out of the revolving account for the special event and then could make up the extra time using the regular budget.

Budget issues, the groundwater monitoring should be considered an exempt activity and we will obtain a new contract in the new format for FY16, as brought forward by the Town Administrator recently. Linda reminds Alyssa to include a line for phone and Wi-Fi service in the event that regional grant is not available.

The Agent provides the Departmental expenditures to-date as documented by the Board Administrative Assistant in Quicken. All agree that this is not the easiest format to read. The Agent will double-check the information using Excel next year. There is discussion of the budget; additional hours are required for the inspector. We will ask for 28hrs, which will allow the inspector 4 complete days in the office. The following items shall be requested under betterment: inspecting software and tablets; recycling bins to be used at the Town Common and Recreation areas; and ruggedized walkie-talkies for the Landfill/Recycling Center.

Alyssa provides the Board with some prospective changes to the local septic regulations, known as the "Town of Sturbridge Board of Health Regulations for on-site sewage Disposal Systems in Conjunction with Title V." Some of the draft changes are reviewed and the Board will further review and provide commentary to the Agent for an upcoming meeting. After the changes are agreed upon, then hearings will be scheduled in 2015 for public comment.

Landfill and Recycling Center

The Board instructs the Agent to brainstorm with DEP technical assistant Irene Congden for a new sticker program. Linda spoke to John Booth and he does not want to have food composting because it may cause a problem with animals and birds. Frank Postma will be taking over the LF and RC newly mandated inspections, occurring six times a year.

Correspondence

Reviewed by the Board with no comment.

Health Agent's annual Performance Evaluation

The Board discusses some goals and changes they would like to see in the new year. There are improvements that can be made as well as some notable accomplishments, such as the completion of the newly updated

bathrooms and septic system at the Hylands Orchards. The Agent's evaluation will continue at the next meeting.

Meeting schedule

The next meeting will be December 8th, 2014 at 5pm. There will be no meeting on December 15th.

Linda Cocalis makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sandra Fallon. (3 – 0) APPROVED.
The meeting is adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Rusiecki, Health Agent

Reviewed: _1/5/2015 Meeting____
Approved: _w/rev; LC mot, RV 2nd, APPROVED (3 – 0)___