

Sturbridge
Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 4, 2016

Present: Linda Cocalis, Richard Volpe, Robert Audet, Alyssa Rusiecki Health Agent and Administrative Clerk Lynne Girouard.

Chairman Linda Cocalis opened the meeting at 5:30pm and she noted that there will be a Title 5 Public Hearing at 7:00PM. It is also noted that the meeting is being video recorded.

The Chairman noted that she might have to leave to attend the BOS meeting across the street to discuss a Special Town Meeting warrant article.

Agents Report

Report read. Item of note:

New Food Establishment: "Baba Sushi," 453 Main St., Fiskdale. It has come to the Health Agent's attention that there was some concern about the plan review comments regarding the layout of the kitchen in this new food establishment. The Agent explained that in the pre-existing coffee shop establishment, there was already a line of sinks and she suggested that the dish machine be moved so that dirty and clean work paths are not crossing and that the hand sink be placed nearer to where the cook line was located. The entire interior is being remodeled and upgraded and it will now be an open air layout where the public can look in to the operating kitchen. The owner and general contractor (GC) felt the separation of the dish machine was a good idea and moving the hand sink nearer to the cooking line was also a good idea. The Agent explained that if the hand sink could not be moved from its current location due to plumbing difficulties, then it could stay in its current location, but the GC and owner agreed that it was not a problem.

Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki noted that the food audits being done by Pamela Ross Kung have been very beneficial to our Inspection procedures and would like to have these audits continue with funding coming from our Revolving account. Having Pamela assisting our part-time inspector enhances our goal of transitioning to risk-based inspections. All members are in agreement.

136-138 Podunk Road

These two property owners, Kevin LaRiviere, and Linda Almeida, are aware of their long-standing problems with failing and leaking tight tanks on each of their respective properties. They are each in violation of Board of Health enforcement orders as well as agreements with the Dudley Housing Court to pump their failing "tight" tanks every twenty days. Linda Cocalis asked if they would qualify for a low Housing loan to repair their failing septic. Alyssa has forwarded them information, Linda will forward her information to the Health Agent.

501 Main Street

The owners of the property have until today January 4, 2016 per Shane Moody at the Water/Sewer Dept. to repair the water - sewage problem.

23 Brookfield Road

Difficult Landlord /Tenant case. The Tenant will be vacating the property by February 4, 2016. Linda Cocalis appeared in Court on behalf of the Board of Health.

Region 2

Do we want to partake in closed EDS sites? Put in abeyance until to the next meeting to get more information.

Landfill/Hazmat

Landfill reports due in February.

John Booth has requested a FY17 capital request for a skid Steer has the approval of Greg Morse at the DPW also.

Linda states that John Booth stated that the Hazmat building is also in need of immediate repairs of sanding and repainting with a quote of \$5,400.00 to be done this year out of the current operating budget. The Board approved this expenditure 3-0

An email complaint came in concerning the traffic congestion at the entrance to the RC John Booth the manger has a plan to alleviate the congestion in the spring will add an additional lane .

Education

The following workshops are coming up on February 10, 17 and a housing workshop on the 23rd which our Health Inspector would like to attend.

Old Business

In regards to the Southbridge Landfill, Linda states that the residents of Charlton are spearheading a petition in response to the MEPA deadline of 1/22/16; the Board agrees that Linda will work on a letter on behalf of the Board of Health and she will work on it with the Agent by the 15th.

The Board of Health reviews a draft warrant article to obtain legal services in order to respond to any Sturbridge health concerns emanating from the Southbridge Landfill I. Linda stated that Alyssa has been a great help with the Southbridge Landfill Special Town Meeting Warrant #36

Richard Volpe motioned to approve Article #36 for \$50,000.00 for representation at the site assignment and a special consultant if and when needed. Robert Audet 2nd all in favor 3-0

Linda stated that at the Quasi judicial Hearing, the Sturbridge Board of Health has no voting rights, but has the right to appeal.

At the 12/7/15 meeting the Board voted to approve Alyssa Rusiecki Health agent a 95% performance evaluation approval. All 3 members signed and dated the approval memo for the Town Administrator.

The Board voted at the 12/7/15 meeting to approve a potential Grade and step for the Administrative assistant position held by Lynne Girouard. The review will be revised and emailed to the BOH members so they may meet with the Personnel Board on this matter.

Sturbridge Retirement Coop

Mary Barry, the manager, sent in a letter stating that they will not pay the \$50.00 renewal fee for their WWTP to the local Board of Health because she already pays the State. The BOH agent has an idea for a revised \$50.00 Registration Fee. LC asks what is the state amount? It is unknown. It is noted at 2 out of 3 WWTP permit renewals paid their \$50.00 annual fee for their 2016 permit. The issue is put in abeyance.

Meeting Minutes Acceptance

- **11-2-15** Linda Cocalis motioned to approve Richard Volpe 2nd all in favor 3-0
- **11-30-15** Linda Cocalis noted that there is also a video as part of the minutes and motioned to approve with Robert Audet 2nd all in favor 3-0 with minor spelling changes
- **12-7-15** Robert Audet motioned to accept the minutes, Richard Volpe 2nd Linda Cocalis abstained in the vote 2-0-1.

See Hearing Minutes as follows:

The Chairman Linda Cocalis Opened the Public Hearing for Regulations in Addition to Title 5 at: 7:00pm

Present: Linda Cocalis, Richard Volpe, Robert Audet, Alyssa Rusiecki Health Agent and Administrative Assistant Lynne Girouard

Also Present: Carol Goodwin, Ed Goodwin and Penny Dumas

Chairwoman Linda Cocalis announced that the meeting is being videotaped anyone with comments must come up to the microphone to speak.

We are here to discuss the clarifications and procedures of the proposed “Sturbridge Board of Health Regulations for On-site Sewage Disposal Systems in Conjunction with Title 5.”

Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki reviewed all the proposed changes to the current regulations with the following issues brought forward by the concerned citizens:

- Perc testing season and drought Conditions, as determined by the Board of Health. The season for perc testing for new construction is precluded during June 15th – September 15th and during any droughts.
- Keep the current acceptable Perc Rates ≤ 20 /minutes Multi and Residential, ≤ 10 /minutes Commercial

The residents, Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, and Ms. Dumas state that anything that is the same as the State Regulations it is weakening our environmental protection stand; changing to weaker regulations than the local regulations as they exist, you will be hurting our community due to significant soil conditions, proximity to important wetlands as well as the need to protect our local streams and lakes.

Alyssa discusses soil mottling and that can be checked at any time of the year. There is no need at this time to have a six-foot vertical offset to groundwater, because using soil science techniques, we, as professionals are very diligent in identifying the “Estimated Seasonal High Groundwater.”

The horizontal offsets, for new construction, from septic tanks and soil absorptions systems to wetlands are discussed. The existing local regulations of 50 feet from a septic tank to the wetlands, and 100 feet from the soil absorption system are supported by the Conservation Commission because their regulations require a twenty-five foot no build zone and a fifty foot no structure zone. The Agent states that it makes sense to keep the existing offsets because many new systems will require an elevated system due to high groundwater (four feet or less to the surface) and will require fill and grading which may also impact the offsets to the wetlands. Linda states that she agrees that our local regulations should dovetail with the local Conservation Commission bylaws. The Board members agree.

The following local regulations are maintained:

- For new construction, fifty feet from a septic tank to wetlands is required.
- For new construction, one hundred feet from a soil absorption system to wetlands is required.
- For new construction, 50% overdesign on the soil absorption system is required to offset any potential installation of a garbage grinder after-the-fact. A variance may be requested as long as the current owner and designer certify on a form with signatures that no garbage grinder has been installed.
- For new construction, no reserve area is allowed in between trenches or trench configuration in order to show an equivalent area available that will be undisturbed and also is in conjunction with the local bylaws of the Conservation Commission.

Linda Cocalis stated that we need to have a reason why we are so restrictive for the Health, Safety and Environmental impact of our community and that is why we are working with the Conservation Commission as to the offsets of the wetlands.

Linda Cocalis left at 8:25PM for the BOS meeting across the street. A quorum of two Board of Health members remains for the duration of the meeting.

The following updates are discussed and approved:

- Failing percs and deep holes located and shown on plans,
- Monolithic septic tanks, and tight tanks, located within the water table are recommended,
- Effluent filters recommended,
- Revisions and as-built plan changes shown in contrasting color or highlighting,
- Impervious barrier installation to be certified by designer,
- Installation inspections, routine, minimum of two inspections,
- Installation inspections, I/A systems, minimum of four inspections,
- Submittal requirements and timelines in compliance with Title 5,
- Innovative/Alternative (aka treatment device) systems:
 - Certification required for designers and installers;
 - All auxiliary documents required either prior to DSCP or Certificate of Compliance;

- Operation and Maintenance contracts required;
- Operation and Maintenance inspections required 1x or 2x per year for the life of the system;
- Operation and Maintenance CL2-M WWTPO to meet for final inspection; and
- Annual registration fees may be required.
- Title 5 Inspectors and Inspections shall require the following:
 - Observe the tanks being pumped;
 - Distance from groundwater measured;
 - Distance from bottom of system measured;
 - Re-inspection or soil evaluation may be required upon the request of the Board of Health;
 - For Innovative/Alternative secondary treatment devices, a CL-2M WWTPO shall be in attendance or provide appropriate inspection documentation.

The Board agrees with these changes.

The audience and the Board members thank Alyssa for her work and explanations of these details.

The regulations will be held in abeyance until all corrections are made and will be voted on at the next BoH meeting.

Bob Audet closed the public hearing at 8:40 PM

Bob Audet closed the meeting at 8:41 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21, @5:30pm
Meeting Adjourned at: 8:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Girouard
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed date: 1-21-2016

Approved by: LC, BA