

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024
Zoom Meeting-5:00 PM

Present on Zoom: Mary McDowell, Chair, Marcia Rising, Merrily Evdokimoff, Members

J. Garreffi, Agent

N. Porter, Associate Member

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and noted that the meeting is being recorded. Participants via Zoom are to use the “hands up” function for Public Comment, which is limited to items not on the agenda. Anyone speaking during Public Comment should state their name and address.

Appointments

5:10-167 Harvard Road-Innovative Septic Design-Proposed System Upgrade

Evan Carloni shared the screen with the plan for the proposed system. Many ledge outcroppings on the site and water. Due to the area being too wet a request to perform a sieve analysis in place of perc testing and the following variance requests are being made. J. Garreffi stated they did some additional testing today to confirm the previous test results. The following variances are requested:

On behalf of the owner of 167 Harvard Road, Innovative Septic Design would like to request approval of an LUA via Title 5, a groundwater offset reduction via the MassDEP approval letter and a couple of variances from the local regulations in regard to the septic plan with the most recent revision date of 3/12/2024. The requests are as follows:

310 CMR 15.000: Title 5 of the State Environmental Code

1. 310 CMR 15.405 (1) (i)

Requirement: Percolation test in accordance with 310 CMR 15.104 and 15.105.

Request: Consideration of approval of the use of a sieve analysis in place of a percolation test.

Justification: Site conditions were too wet to run a percolation test in accordance with 310 CMR 15.104 and 15.105.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Approval Letter

Section 3. a): Alternative Design Standards

Section Language: Alternative Design Standards – Provided that the Designer demonstrates that the impact of the proposed Alternative System has been considered and the design requirements of 310 CMR 15.000 have been varied to the least degree necessary so as allow for both the best feasible upgrade within the borders of the lot and the least degree effect on public health, safety, welfare and the environment, the local approving authority may allow any combination of the following alternative design standards without the need for granting a variance under 310 CMR 15.400 or obtaining Department approval:

If a reduction in the depth of groundwater required by 310 CMR 15.212 is necessary, the depth to groundwater may be reduced by up to 2 feet, resulting in a minimum separation distance of two feet in soils with a recorded percolation rate of more than two minutes per inch and three feet in soils with a recorded percolation rate of two minutes per inch or less, measured from the bottom of the soil absorption system to the high groundwater elevation, only if;

- i An approved Soil Evaluator who is a member or agent of the local Approving Authority determines the high groundwater elevation;
- ii No reduction is granted under LUA for setbacks from public or private wells, bordering vegetated wetlands, surface waters, salt marshes, coastal banks, certified vernal pools, water supply lines, surface water

supplies or tributaries to surface water supplies, or drains which discharge to surface water supplies or their tributaries, is allowed; and

In accordance with 310 CMR 15.212(2), for systems with a design flow of 2,000 gpd or greater, the separation to high groundwater as required by 310 CMR 15.212(1) shall be calculated after adding the effect of groundwater mounding to the high groundwater elevation as determined pursuant to 310 CMR 15.103(3).

Request: Approval of a 1-foot offset reduction to the estimated high groundwater elevation as allowed by the approval letter. The offset is being requested to reduce mounding and reduce the amount of fill encroachment on the bordering vegetated wetland.

Justification: All criteria outlined in the approval letter has been met.

Stow Board of Health Rules and Regulations

1. Minimum distance between water body and septic system disposal area

Requirement: A septic system shall be no closer than 100 feet to a wetland or water body.

Request: Consideration of approval of ~53 feet from septic tank to BVW and ~61 feet from leach field to BVW.

Justification: Deep test holes were excavated uphill and away from the wetlands without adequate depth of naturally occurring pervious soil due to ledge. A majority of the lot is ledge outcropping, however the area proposed did have adequate depth of soil.

1. Siting and design requirements

Requirement: The finish grade of a septic system leaching area shall not be modified by more than a mean level of two feet averaged over the entire area of the soil absorption system.

Request: Consideration of approval of three feet average rise in elevation over entire area of soil absorption system.

Justification: High estimated high groundwater levels on site have pushed this replacement leach field to be mounded. A Presby system is proposed to help reduce mounding.

M. Evdokimoff motioned to approve the following 4 variance requests listed above approving the reduction in setback to high groundwater, the Stow Board of Health regulation in the setback from tank and leaching field to the wetlands listed, as well as the 2 foot cover to 3 feet cover, M. Rising seconded. All members voted unanimously.

5:30 PM- Local Emergency Planning/Medical Reserve Corp

Stow Fire Chief JP Benoit met to discuss the future of the Medical Reserve Corp and the needs for sheltering in Town. M. Evdokimoff discussed the changes and needs to MRC and the involvement of Emergency Planning. The discussion of developing a CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) with Emergency Management continued with Chief Benoit explaining that over the years needs have changed in Town. Stow is fortunate to be part of Hudson Light and Power and the help they give during storms. Extreme weather requires more needs for sheltering. Chief Benoit said he would like to see more non-medical engagement from residents. CERT teams can be engaged for parking during town meetings and other town functions and will create the need for more resident's involvement than just an annual flu clinic. Chief Benoit also mentioned that the Captain has taken training in CERT management. The plan is to advertise at the Town Meeting this year to recruit volunteers and start training to kick off the CERT. The supplies that have been stored by MRC can also be used through Emergency Management.

N. Porter asked what the ideal number would be for volunteers. Chief Benoit said about 30.

The Board members will be members of CERT. Chief Benoit said they will conduct the training at the Fire Department.

Discussion Items

Appointment of Animal Inspector- Chair McDowell asked if there were any other interested parties in the position of Animal Inspector. There were none. M. Rising made a motion to appoint Phyllis Tower

as Stow's Animal Inspector for the term April 2024- April 2025. M. Evdokimoff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Private Well Regulations

M. McDowell shared her screen with the summary and Public Notice, all members reviewed. The summary will be published in the paper for two weeks. The link will also have the information and Regulations on the Board of Health website.
Approved samplers will come to meet with the Board of Health at the next meeting.

Board Member Updates

M. Rising updated the Board on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and would like the Board members to take the survey on the Town Website. Meeting in a Box to discuss the questions.
M. Evdokimoff- 4 AB Extreme Temperature Impact for Towns in 4 AB coalition survey.
MAHB conference is scheduled for April 2024.

Office Business- Annual Report for 2023 is completed and submitted.

Health Agent Report

Well and Water Sampling

Meeting Minutes

M. Rising noted a correction in the first paragraph. Board member M. Rising moved to accept the February 8, 2024; minutes as amended. M. Evdokimoff seconded, passed unanimously.

Correspondence- Correspondence was reviewed, no questions or comments.

Adjournment

At 6:10 PM. M. Rising moved to adjourn. Board member M. McDowell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024.