

**Town of Middleton, Massachusetts
Board of Health**



Public Health
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 19, 2012

The Middleton Board of Health held a public meeting on September 19, 2012 at the Fuller Meadow School (Media Room) 143 South Main Street, Middleton, Massachusetts at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Robert Ambrefe, Chair
George Demeritt
Paul Leblanc
Matthew Greenfield

Others Present:

Derek Fullerton, Public Health Director
Stacey Haynes, Recording secretary
Chuck Johnson, P.E.
Jim Cavanaugh, P.E.

Chairman Ambrefe opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Chairman announces that the minutes from the regular Board of Health meeting held on September 19, 2012 have not completed and will be tabled until the meeting.

145 EAST STREET

Chuck Johnson, P.E. stated that he is representing the owners of the property located at 1145 East Street in requesting the following local upgrade request: 310 CMR 15.227(5) & 15.405(1)(j) – Minimum vertical separation between septic tank inlet & outlet inverts & high groundwater of 12 inches.

Mr. Johnson explained that the current system for the three-bedroom home has failed a Title V inspection and is in need of an upgrade. Due to a combination of cost and esthetics, Mr. Johnson has proposed installing a Bottomless Sand Filter. Mr. Johnson explains the technology behind this type of system, which is following design standards developed by the University of Rhode Island in 2001.

Mr. Demeritt asked Mr. Fullerton if he is familiar with these types of systems. Mr. Fullerton states he first read about these systems in 2007 but has not yet seen one installed and excited to see one go in. Mr. Fullerton adds that there is upcoming training on these systems as they are becoming more popular.

Mr. Chairman asks about cost and if there is any special maintenance needed for these systems. According to Mr. Johnson, the total cost of the system is between \$40,000-\$45,000. Individuals that are specifically trained and licensed, according to a mandatory service contract also maintain the systems twice per year.

Mr. Chairman now asked Mr. Johnson what would happen if the system were to fail. Mr. Johnson states that the only known problems with these systems are the pump failing, and if the treatment is not working properly, a little ponding may occur. No issues of a system failure have been reported.

Mr. Johnson also informs the Board that a new well will be installed and where it will be located. There are three abutting properties that are within 100 feet of the proposed well, and Mr. Johnson has already notified each homeowner of his proposed plan.

Mr. LeBlanc asked Mr. Johnson what the specific variance is that he is requesting. Mr. Johnson explains that the height above where the boots are in and out of the tanks is supposed to be twelve inches above the seasonal groundwater elevation; respectively, they are asking for approximately a two-inch variance.

MOTION: Mr. LeBlanc moved to accept the Local Upgrade Variance Request for the property located at 145 East Street (Map 8 Lot 10): 310 CMR 15.227(5) & 15.405(1)(j) – Minimum vertical separation between septic tank inlet & outlet inverts & high groundwater of 12 inches. Mr. Demeritt seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3 BEECH AVENUE

Mr. Chairman announced this variance request is an addition to the agenda. Mr. Fullerton has not reviewed the case and was the reason it was not on the agenda.

Jim Cavanaugh P.E. states he is representing the property located at 3 Beech Avenue in requesting the following local variance upgrades: From 301 CMR 15.405(1): 1) Reduction of the Soil Absorption System from the bordering vegetated wetlands from fifty (50) feet to forty-five (45) feet; 2) Reduction of the soil absorption system from the foundation wall from twenty (20) feet to ten (10) feet.

Mr. Fullerton explained to the Board that that the home located at 3 Beech Avenue has been a rental property and is currently going through a regular sale. The property is currently in negotiations and unoccupied, and has a failed septic system per Title V.

Mr. Cavanaugh states the lot is extremely small and he has designed for the installation of a Presby Enviro-septic system due to the proximity of the wetlands, which would also provide additional treatment. The system has been pushed back from the wetlands as possible within such a small sight.

Mr. Greenfield asked Mr. Fullerton for his recommendation on the request. Mr. Fullerton states he is familiar with the sight and that it has great soils with a percolation rate of 2 minutes per inch. Mr. Fullerton also felt that the system is maximum feasible compliance and suits the small site.

MOTION: Mr. Greenfield moved to accept the local variances as outlined above with the condition of plan review and approval by Mr. Fullerton. Mr. Demeritt seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

WNV/EEE ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION

Mr. Fullerton announced that he has sent out packets to the residents of Tri-Town area in response to the recent case of EEE in Georgetown. The information is intended to keep residents aware of the issue and that even though it is late in the season; the risk level remains the same. Mr. Fullerton has just received an email from the Town of Amesbury confirming they have a confirmed human case of EEE. Mr. Fullerton is waiting for feedback from the Northeast Mosquito Control District and will keep the Board informed.

SHELTER EXERCISE-MIDDLETON (8/30/2012)

Mr. Fullerton states the shelter exercise went well and has received positive feedback from other communities. Mr. Fullerton was also assigned the shelter manager for the town during the mock event during the training.

Mr. Chairman also attended the exercise and noted it was informative and very eye opening.

FLU VACCINATION SEASON 2012-2013

Mr. Fullerton announced that the town has already received 100% of the town's flu vaccine from the State Department of Public Health. They also have their private supply of the vaccine that was purchased at the beginning of the season, so the town is ready to hold a Flu Clinic. Public Health Nurse, Tracy Mello is currently working with the schools to pick a date for the Flu Clinic. Mr. Fullerton believes it will be the second week in October. Mr. Fullerton is also in talks with Ms. Mello to hold a second Flu Clinic at the Fuller Meadow School, during the 2012 Election.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSERIES

Mr. Fullerton states he had been asked by Lisa Teichner, Director of the Tri-Town Council and the Tri-Town Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to add this discussion to the meeting agenda. Ms. Teichner would like the Board to discuss this issue of the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes that is to be voted on in the upcoming election. According to Mr. Fullerton, some cities and towns have already started preparing for it if were to pass. Mr. Fullerton also stated that the bill has associated zoning issues (in relation to the retail store dispensaries of medical marijuana) and believes the Board of Health may be asked for their input.

BOH MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Chairman informs the Board that he has had a recent discussion with Mr. Fullerton regarding the possibility of now holding regular Board of Health meetings every other month. Mr. Chairman agrees that it is a good idea as the recent meeting agendas have been well managed and Mr. Fullerton is very capable of handling many issues in his office.

Mr. Chairman adds that if any issues come up that need immediate attention, the Board members will be notified by text or email so they can schedule a meeting sooner.

Mr. Demeritt asks Mr. Chairman and Mr. Fullerton if there is a town by-law that states they must hold a monthly meeting. Mr. Chairman responds by stating that there is not. Mr. Fullerton adds he has not looked at the town by by-laws and will confirm that for the Board. Mr. Demeritt then states that the with the current organizational structure of the Board, and with Mr. Fullerton's capabilities of handling many issues on his own, is in favor of the request.

Mr. Greenfield states he is also in favor of the request with the understanding that if sooner meetings be needed, they can be scheduled.

With the Boards approval of meeting every other month, Mr. Chairman announced the next regular Board meeting will be held on November 7, 2012.

MHOA CONFERENCE 2012

Mr. Fullerton announced that he will be speaking at the Massachusetts Health Offices Association Conference for the third year in a row. The conference will be held on October 24-26, 2012 at The Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. Mr. Fullerton will be speaking on the topic of public health and the use with iPads. Mr. Demeritt asked Mr. Fullerton about the significance of using and iPad. Mr. Fullerton briefly explains to Mr. Demeritt how he is now able to use the an iPad for certain tasks such as septic inspections, and how it is much more easier and convenient only having to use one tool.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Mr. Demeritt moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Mr. Greenfield seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacey Haynes
Recording secretary*