

## HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010

**Members Present:** Lindle Willnow, Karen Zagorski, Susan Wilfahrt, Health Agent Leslie Whelan and Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens.

**Meeting Opened:** 7:44 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

### **Greg Hochmuth, Neve-Morin Group – 16 Chebacco Road – Local Upgrade Approval Request for 1' Reduction to Groundwater**

The proposed septic system is a low infiltrator with pump that doses four times a day. The site required that the 3-bedroom system fit into a hill. Pipe will be insulated to avoid freezing. Effluent filters will be cleaned once a year. Greg Hochmuth said there has never been a problem with a forced main needing to be flushed.

Health Agent Leslie Whelan had reviewed the plan and other than the local upgrade approval request for 1' reduction to groundwater, it meets all the other aspects of code.

Lindle Willnow thought Hochmuth had done the best he could with all the ledge and wetlands on the property.

Willnow moved the Board of Health grant the request for local upgrade approval for 16 Chebacco Road for a 1' reduction to groundwater. Karen Zagorski seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

### **Dan Johnson and Paul Ricker – Local Upgrade Approval Procedures (44 Sagamore Street – Example)**

Dan Johnson, septic system designer, said when John Jacobi was health agent for Hamilton they had an agreement that plans requiring local upgrade approval for approximately 1' reduction to groundwater did not have to go before the Board of Health. Since this situation occurs frequently in Hamilton due to pervasive high groundwater in Town.

He asked the Board to consider adopting past practice for local upgrade approval with Health Agent Leslie Whelan. Johnson said designing plans that include approximately 1' reduction to groundwater as specified by Title 5, saves a few thousand dollars for

clients. Willnow agreed that avoiding economic hardship was a key argument for granting local upgrade approval since in many cases the 1' reduction is unavoidable.

Willnow said after reviewing a few of the local upgrade requests with Whelan he was comfortable leaving future local upgrade requests to Whelan's judgment. He added that the number of local upgrade approvals that have been granted would be put on the monthly agendas and reflected in the monthly minutes.

Discussion about whether or not this policy should be put in writing. Johnson recommended it could be a verbal agreement and that he or other septic system designers could bring new board members up to speed on the process since it is not required to be in writing as mandated by Title 5.

Discussion on Town-owned land on 7 Hatfield Road, the system would be mounded even with local upgrade approval to groundwater. Local upgrade approval for this system could save \$2,500.

Johnson noted that when system plans require septic mounds it could be more difficult for a homeowner to sell a house. Grading and modification can be used to for aesthetics.

Discussion was on local upgrade approval for 44 Sagamore Street. Willnow moved the Board grant local upgrade approval for 44 Sagamore Street. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Discussion – Canterbrook Farm at 354 Highland Street – Senior Housing Special Permit Application**

The Planning Board will discuss special permit application from Canterbrook Farm on August 17. This board wants comments on the application from the Board of Health.

Discussion on design flows for community system that could serve 44 units of two-bedroom, active adult or senior housing. There could be 150 gallons of flow per day per unit. Health Agent Leslie Whelan said test holes done at site were good.

Discussion was on local residents' concern about flooding because the housing development could change the drainage pattern in the area. Apparently the culvert at Highland Street is flooded. Whelan noted that rain gardens and infiltration chambers are proposed in site plan. Willnow mentioned that roof area of new structures would be less than that found on current structures on the property.

Whelan agreed to finish reviewing the senior housing proposal and provide comments. She will also seek information as to whether or not there will be any active recreation on the site where the leaching field will be located. Willnow will review her comments. The Board's Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens will provide all Board of Health comments to the Planning Board.

### **Discussion – Estate Overlay District By-Law Draft from Planning Board**

Discussion on fact that proposed estate overlay district by-law is lengthy and the Board could review certain sections.

Discussion on whether or not Planning Board is taking more authority than it should regarding septic system plan. Willnow suggested that an executive summary would be helpful. He recommended that Board review what Title 5 says about allowing efficient, centralized common systems to ensure there isn't any conflict.

### **Discussion – Regarding Development of Landfill**

Discussion was on two parties that are interested in potentially developing landfill site. One proposal would be for capturing wind energy.

The Town is working toward legally closing the landfill to comply with Department of Environmental Protection requirements. One cell is closed and a total of four cells have to be completely closed.

Gun clubs are current using the landfill and lead from bullets would have to be abated at the site. This falls under DEP's jurisdiction. A report from SEA, the company overseeing the closure of the landfill is online.

### **Discussion – Letter from John Gardner regarding Beaver Control**

Resident John Gardner had sent Board of Health letter encouraging Town to continue allowing emergency permitting of beaver trapping to reduce rodent population.

Whelan explained that Hamilton's public works department had applied for an emergency permit. Under Board of Health guidelines for reviewing emergency permits evidence of roads, foundations or septic systems being flooded has to be shown. This couldn't be done so DPW didn't pursue it. DPW Director John Tomasz told homeowner that Board of Health denied emergency permit but Board of Health had asked for more information.

Whelan said that Assistant Town Administrator Christine Lindberg reported that the Massachusetts Wildlife website says there are times when a professional trapper doesn't need an emergency permit to trap beavers in the trapping season.

Stevens tried to call Gardner but couldn't find his phone number. Whelan said Gardner should be notified that trapping permits from Board of Health are for emergencies when the septic system, foundation or roads are being flooded. Otherwise, there is a beaver trapping season. Willnow said it seems like Tomasz said there is no imminent threat. Whelan said she would write a letter to Gardner.

### **Discussion – Sheryl Knutsen – Public Health Nurse Hours**

Sheryl Knutsen has taken another job as a public health nurse in Newburyport. Since she is retired, there are constraints as to the hours she can work so it no longer makes sense for her to work two hours a week for Hamilton.

If Kim Paskalis, public health nurse, were hired in February, she could start working for Hamilton in March 2011. Knutsen can work for the Town until that time.

### **Update – Emergency Dispensing Site Plan Meeting planned for September**

Stevens is waiting to hear from Lindberg about a September date where Town Manager Michael Lombardo, public safety personnel and Tomasz will meet to discuss emergency dispensing site.

### **Update – Acord Food Pantry Inspection done on 7/7/10**

Roberta Cody, who does camp and pool inspections for Hamilton, has taken on food inspections and recently did Acord Food Pantry inspection. A permit was issued although it was noted that the pantry will not have central air conditioning when a new building is constructed at Willow Street site.

Food Inspector Frank Giacalone has consistently been unresponsive to Board requests and agreed that he is too busy to continue serving in this capacity.

At Whelan's suggestion, Cody will do food inspections, 80 hours per year for 30 establishments. Cody also works for Marblehead.

**Discussion – Vacation Coverage**

Stevens and Whelan will be taking the week of August 23 through 27 off for vacation. The department's answering machine will notify callers to call police if there is an emergency. Cody will be asked if she could back up the police if there is an emergency. Cody would assess if Willnow needs to be contacted.

Local contractors will be notified to get inspections done and engineers will be instructed to inspect septic system installations the week before Stevens and Whelan will be out of the office.

Zagorski will pick up department mail when Stevens is on vacation next week and in August.

**Review – Minutes dated 6/15/10**

Willnow noted that Northeast Mosquito Control would notify the Board if there was any occurrence of mosquito species carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Hamilton.

Willnow moved that the Board accept the June 15 minutes without exception. Zagorski seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Willnow moved at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation