

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 17, 2019

Members Present: Walter Row, and David Smith (Chairman)

Health Agent: Leslie Whelan

This meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm in the Memorial Room, Hamilton Town Hall by David Smith.

3 Arthur Ave. Septic Upgrade Plan. Richard Clarke.

Rick Clarke (EPS Associates) said he was requesting to upgrade the septic to a four bedroom system on a tight lot. Mr. Clarke said he had worked with Leslie Whelan and Chuck Johnson to improve the plan. Mr. Clarke gave a history to include that soil testing did not show a good perc rate due to silty soils. Ms. Whelan had suggested digging through the existing soils to determine what was below. The third perc test was conducted 13' below grade where Class I soils were located. The soil sample was sent to UMass to determine the classification. Currently two cesspools existed that discharged effluent into the neighbor's property. A monolithic tank design was proposed. The proposed gravity system was comprised of a two compartment, 1,500 gallon septic tank and distribution box, which would flow into a 400 sf Presby system. Presby systems with five 43' long pipes allowed for a 40% reduction in size.

Rick Clarke asked for the following variances: 1) to allow the system to be 9' instead of 20' from the dwelling. A barrier would be installed between the dwelling and the system. 2) to allow a 2' instead of a 4' separation to groundwater, which would be allowed with a Presby system. 3) to allow a 7' instead of 10' setback to 31 Garfield Ave. and the back property line. Mr. Clarke clarified that he did not plan on using 7' from 31 Garfield Ave. property line but after speaking with Chuck Johnson, the request would be made in the event the survey showed a change. The retaining wall would be 4' from the property line. 4) Septic tank 10' from property line and 10' from dwelling. 5) to request an over dig of leaching sand of 3' instead of 5'. 6) Use of sieve analysis instead of perc test at 13' depth. Mr. Clarke said he and Mr. Johnson were in agreement with the comments on Mr. Johnson's letter of July 17, 2019.

Currently a sump pump discharged into the neighbor's property. Rick Clarke proposed that the water would be diverted into a newly created rain garden in front yard. Kirk Benson would conduct a survey and pin the outer two corners and the mid-point. Mr. Clarke had located the iron pipes from the previously conducted Kane survey and researched the Woodland Meade plans to determine one corner. The plan would ensure the 10" – 12" high wall was 4' from the 31 Garfield Ave. property line. Mr. Clarke was confident that the soils would be a Classification I and he would resubmit the plan for approval. If the system needed to be closer than 10' to 31 Garfield Ave. property line, Mr. Clarke would confer with Chuck. Johnson and make arrangements in the field.

The slope would stay the same 4' from the property line. Rick Clarke indicated the Presby systems preferred 10" of cover while Mr. Clarke showed 12" of cover. Mr. Clarke said he could reduce the coverage by 2" in the field. Mr. Clarke said the system would work without the wall but thought it might improve the neighbor's situation. There was a 2% slope in all directions. 13' of soil would be removed and replaced with Presby / C-33 sand. The neighbor Gisella Greenlaw (31 Garfield Ave.) was present and agreed that this was the best solution but continued to worry about run off especially in winter when soils were frozen. David Smith noted that the natural topography showed a slope toward her house but the new system would alleviate concerns about septic leakage from cesspools.

Motion made by David Smith to have the Board approve the request for the local upgrade approvals in accordance with the comments of the July 17, 2019 letter from Chuck Johnson to Leslie Whelan.

Walter Row seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding the results of the soil samples. Rick Clarke said he would redesign the system if the results were not Classification I. Leslie Whelan would evaluate the proposal and decide if it was an acceptable project before it could proceed. Rick Clarke provided certified mail green cards from affected abutters.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Discussion on the subject of banning use in Hamilton of Roundup herbicide presented by Gretel Clark.

Topic to be postponed until Gretel Clarke could be present.

Update on public concerns regarding Town drinking water quality

David Smith was pleased that the Selectmen and Tim Olson decided to hold a discussion of Town water on July 29, 2019. The latest results from the TTHM sample indicated 39 at the treatment plant and 51 at the Goodhue site. Eighty micro grams per liter was considered an acceptable level. The water treatment plant was at 50% capacity due to management failure in the past.

Health Agent Update.

Leslie Whelan noted her vacation on August 1 through 4, 2019. Nancy Stevens would also be on vacation the first week of August. Ms. Whelan would provide an emergency contact for the Board. Ms. Whelan said Essex Septic had been in compliance and Wind River continued to have a pumping license but had not pursued a Title 5 inspection licensed. Ms. Whelan referred to the flyer for building an addition or bedroom and noted the additional language that said a Title 5 would not be required if the system had been inspected within the previous five years or if the system was less than 20 years old.

David Smith said he went to an open meeting law educational session and commented on how complicated the law was and the use of recorders needed to be announced. The candidate for the open Board position decided not to pursue the position.

Unanticipated Items/Announcements.

Review June 19, 2019 Minutes.

Motion made by David Smith to approve the minutes of June 19, 2019.

Seconded by Walter Row.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

List of documents and exhibits reviewed.

Can I Build an Addition on My House? Can I add a Bedroom?

Minutes June 19, 2019.

Letter from Chuck Johnson to Leslie Whelan, dated July 17, 2019.

Septic Plan for 3 Arthur Avenue, EPS Associates

Adjournment

Motion made by David Smith to adjourn at 7:40 pm.

Seconded by Walter Row.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Prepared by: Marcie Ricker