

Board of Health Meeting

March 23, 2016

Conference Room, Sharon Community Center

7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Board of Health: Ed Welch, Luba Raynus, Ken Zoller, Chuck Levine, Jay Schwab; *Health Department:* Beverly Anderson; *DPW:* Jim Andrews

Public: Rene Gagnon; George Collins; Todd pilling; Gregory Meister; Ron Davidson; Robert Tillansy; Jeffrey Youngquist; Drew Wollman

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Ed Welch indicated that since the meeting had not been posted correctly, the Board would listen to hearings, but would not be able to vote on the matters.

The first hearing was a further discussion of the March 2, 2016 Board of Health variance hearing for 71R Glendale Road, Sharon. A new plan was submitted by Rene Gagnon, Outback Engineering. The new plan required only a single variance where more had been requested at the previous hearing. Gagnon noted that the septic system was now based on a new plan and would be moved. He noted that a swale had been added to redirect water and that the owner was purchasing property necessary for the septic system from his neighbor. An unsigned purchase and sale agreement was presented for the Board. The plan included the new lot on which new construction was proposed for a home of approximately 2,000 square feet according to Gagnon. Jim Andrews was asked to comment on the system. Andrews noted that the inclusion of a swale and moving the proposed easement would likely "sate the abutter". There was some discussion regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals. Andrews expressed concern that the variance related to distance from groundwater was precedent setting. David Katz, the property owner, brought up similar variances that had been requested and granted in the past. Greg Meister, Conservation Commission Administrator, expressed his concerns related to protection of the wetlands near the proposed new construction, and how building in the area might affect the integrity of the groundwater. Meister urged the Board of Health not to accept the variance on groundwater and noted the soils in the area were not optimal for a septic system. He also noted the system for new construction would be precedent setting. Katz restated his findings regarding prior variances given for similar construction and septic systems, indicating the proposed construction would not be "precedent setting". The Board agreed to discuss and come to a decision on the proposed variance at its next meeting.

The Board agreed to hold a follow up meeting on the variances on March 31, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Pilling Engineering then presented plans for 40 Quincy Street. Todd Pilling described a large system and a request for a waiver for separation from the water table. The property was not in a Zone 2 or a groundwater protection district. Pilling asked for a waiver for the sieve test and the distance from groundwater from Article 7 requirements, and for setback requirements, i.e. from 10 feet to 7 feet. The separation from groundwater would be reduced from 4 feet to 3 feet. Pilling noted there would be a cover of soil of 12 inches over the system, and the system would be pumped. Upon further discussion, Pilling agreed to modify the plan and resubmit the plan for review at the next Board of Health meeting.

The Board of Health heard from George Collins for Michael Testa, owner of 31 Mohawk Street. He described a three bedroom existing home needing septic repairs. He requested a variance for distance from groundwater from 5 feet required to 4 feet. Welch noted the setback from wetlands had not been shown on the plan. Collins indicated he would generate a new plan for review at the March 31st meeting.

Applicants for variances were informed of the upcoming meeting when hearings would be continued and voted upon, i.e. March 31, 2016.

Concerns regarding dogs on Sharon public beaches and related regulations and by-laws were discussed. Current signage was reviewed. The Board asked Anderson to gather information on recent decisions in Sharon and issues related to dogs on beaches, including enforcement issues. The provision of more signs to better communicate rulings was proposed. Drew Wollman, a citizen concerned about the issue, joined the meeting to voice his concerns about dogs on the beaches.

Levine brought up the matter of new cloud-based inspection software the DPW intended to purchase, "ViewPoint", which would allow sharing of information among different town departments. He indicated that the DPW would be the first department to have the software and the Health Department would be allowed to secure the necessary software and files thereafter. He noted the cost to the Board of Health would be approximately \$3,000 to start up the license. Anderson expressed concern that no information on the specific health-related applications had been provided.

Anderson asked the Board for input on the draft operational plan, which had been on the agenda for the previous and the current meeting. Welch did not wish to discuss the plan. Schwab suggested that the Board could bring it up at the April meeting.

Anderson noted that she had provided the Board with a report for the month of March and a copy of a presentation that she had given on climate change and emergency response to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.