

Sharon Board of Health-Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

7:00 pm

Community Center, 219 Massapoag Avenue, Sharon

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Present: Jay Schwab, Ed Welch, Ken Zoller, Chuck Levine, Beverly Anderson. Absent: Luba Raynus, Jim Andrews.

Also present: Joshua Golden, owner, 62 South Main Street, Sharon; Anthony Stella, P.E., Site Engineering Consultants, Inc.

The Board members reviewed draft minutes of the July 19, 2017 meeting; however, a quorum of those present at that meet could not be met, and the approval was delayed until the next Board meeting.

A hearing was held to consider the proposed condemnation of the building at 62 South Main Street based on the failure of a septic system at the site. Anderson reviewed the history of the property and related violations of 310 CMR 15.000, Title Five and Article 7 of the Board of Health Regulations. Golden was then asked for information on steps he would take to install a new system. Welch asked for a specific schedule outlining when the installation would be completed to be submitted to the Board. He also asked for a signed contract and a letter from Golden confirming that the installation of a new system would be completed by a specific date. Welch indicated the Board could also hold a special meeting in advance of the scheduled September meeting. Golden agreed to this request. The Board voted to continue the hearing at its next meeting in September. Levine motion to continue; Zoller seconded, all voted in favor.

The Board then heard from Anthony Stella, P.E. regarding plans for the Chinese Baptist Church of Metro South Boston to be constructed in Sharon. He described the septic system and building proposal to the Board. Stella also told the Board that no kitchen or similar food facility was included in the plan. No variances on the plan were needed nor requested. The Board thanked Stella for the presentation.

Philip Pitha, a Sharon resident, provided the Board with more information related to potential health impacts of the fracked gas line proposed for Sharon. Pitha noted that the health issues related to the gas line stem from the contaminants in fracked gas and also the ongoing leaks of gas, and specifically methane, from gas lines. He noted that methane would contribute to global warming and climate change. He noted that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had taken the gas line proposal off the table, but that there is a bill before the Senate to "fast track FERC approvals". He also indicated that a study carried out through Attorney General Maura Healy's office showed that the extra gas capacity was not needed for Massachusetts. He submitted a draft letter for the Board's review and encouraged the Board to submit this or a similar appeal to Governor Baker. The Board requested more specific information on potential health impacts of the gas line.

The Board asked Anderson to provide them with a recent health assessment carried out by Sheila Miller's college students who train at the Health Department. They also asked for input from other towns that have carried out a health assessment.

The Board asked Anderson to request more information on the proposed consultant from Fred Turkington.

The Board identified September 27, 2017 and October 18, 2017 as dates for future BOH meetings.

Zoller motioned to adjourn the meeting; Schwab seconded; all voted in favor. The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

DRAFT