

TOWN of HINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

April 15, 2021

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held remotely by telephone as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Members Present

Peter Bickford, Chair

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

Kirk Shilts, D.C., Member

Staff Present

Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

John Chessia, Board Consultant Engineer

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of March 16, 2021 with the Board.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes of March 16, 2021 as drafted.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Septic Works Construction Permit Application

19/27 Whiting Street

Spokespersons: Jeff Tocchio; Scott Golding, Merhej and Sons Realty and Don Rose, CHA Engineering

- This septic system application is for new construction/change in use.
- #19 Whiting is the Hingham Gas station and #27 Whiting is an adjacent two bedroom home with garage.
- The proposal is to combine the two lots, demolish the house and build a commercial convenience store that will operate in conjunction with the gas station.
- Dr. Shilts stated that this is a good use for this parcel as a commercial property rather than a residence.
- The requested variances are setbacks from a subservice drain and with the reserve area.
- Combining the two lots will reduce septic load from 520 to 398 gpd.
- The distance from the existing drain on Whiting street is 104 feet; the new proposal will be no closer.
- The plan includes an extensive subsurface stormwater collection system that also collects spilled fuel. This system would additionally collect any septic surface discharge – further protecting the road drain.
- The request is to construct the primary and the secondary soil absorption area (SAS) in the same location and when needed just switch between the two with a valve.
- The plan includes a potential third gas island that is not going to be built right away due to finances. However, the septic system has been designed for the third gas island. Mr. Tocchio said building a separate reserve area would prohibit having a third gas island.
- Dr. Shilts suggested using a FAM that would enable the entire SAS to be quickly rebuilt, rather than switching to a reserve SAS that is often damaged when there is a failure of a shared primary SAS.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call);
to grant a septic works construction permit for the applicant at 19/27 Whiting Street and grant two (2) variances from Hingham Supplemental Septic Regulations Section VII.7(F)(8) and Section VII.7(K) conditional on the following: (1) confirmation of the lot being of single ownership/single lot, (2) the applicant provide the Board of Health with a Financial Assurance Mechanism per the process identified in the supplementary regulations, (3) the Financial Insurance Mechanism escrow be established at 100% of the soil absorption system's replacement cost, and that the project be built according to plans dated 3/12/2021.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Definitive Subdivision Application

101 Gardner Street

Spokesperson: Kevin Grady, project engineer

- The applicant has forgone a Preliminary Subdivision review, and therefore the Board has forty-five (45) days to act on this application.
- The location includes part of the Boston Golf.
- The project is for three (3) house lots at over an acre each.
- Mr. Grady said that additional soil testing needs to be completed and he is requesting that the Board continue the application.
- Mr. Grady does not know if the adjacent private wells shown on plans are for irrigation or domestic use. He said he will contact these neighbors.
- The houses would be connected to Weir River Water System – but no service letter commitment was submitted.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call);
to continue this definitive subdivision application for up to sixty (60) days, conditional on the applicant's request.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Building Permit Sign-Off

The Range Bar & Grille, 306 Whiting St.

Spokespersons: Jeff Tocchio project counsel, Scott Golding & Gabe Crocker

- This matter is continued from the Sept. 10, 2020 meeting.
- The Board reviewed a draft stipulation agreement between the applicant and the Board regarding the Board agreeing to sign-off on the restaurant's 2020 building permit and a renewed certificate of occupancy.
- Atty. Tocchio provided written revisions to the draft agreement.
- Dr. Shilts reviewed the revisions with the Board and a final draft derived.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to accept the stipulation agreement, as herein amended, regarding the Board's approval of the 2020 building permit application for The Range Bar & Grille.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Executive Health Officer (EHO) Report:

Ms. Nee read the EHO report on behalf of Mr. Sarni

- **Hingham Public Water Supply Quality**

Hingham receives a portion of its drinking water from Cohasset. There was a well in Cohasset that exceeded the limit for PFAS, a contaminant that is used for manufacturing common products and firefighting foams. We are monitoring the supply line coming into Hingham from Cohasset for any exceedances to state limit.

- **COVID-19 Update**

The town's COVID dashboard is updated weekly and there is a new vaccine category by age. Currently 27% of Hingham residents are fully vaccinated compared to 22.5% of Massachusetts.

- **Town Hall & Hingham Public Library Opening Updates**

Town Hall will open 100% to staff on June 1st, and open to the public, by appointment, a couple of weeks later. The library will also open on June 1st on a limited basis.

Scheduling

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.

Adjournment

The April 15, 2021 public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Benedetto, Administrative Secretary

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *Letter from John Chessia dated 3/24/21 regarding 19/27 Whiting Street*
- *Letter from John Chessia dated 3/30/21 regarding 101 Gardner St.*
- *Proposed septic plans for 19/27 Whiting, revised 3/12/21*
- *Letter from CHA regarding septic plans for 19/27 Whiting Street, revised 3/12/21*
- *Draft Stipulation Agreement with The Range Bar & Grille, 4/15/21*