

TOWN of HINGHAM

BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

July 18, 2019

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held in the Central South Hearing meeting room, Hingham Town Hall, Hingham, MA.

Dr. Eldredge called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Chair

Peter Bickford, Member

Kirk Shilts, D.C., Member

Staff Present:

Susan Sarni, MPH, Executive Health Officer (EHO)

Chairperson Message:

Dr. Eldredge said she would like to discuss the Town's Sewer Appropriation Bylaw at a future meeting.

Agenda:

Dr. Eldredge reviewed the posted agenda with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Mr. Bickford and VOTED (unanimous);
to approve the agenda as drafted.

Minutes:

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the May 16, 2019 public meeting.

Mr. Bickford requested that under 90 Ward St, the vote reflect that he was opposed.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Mr. Bickford, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (unanimous);
to approve the May 16, 2019 meeting minutes as amended.

Septic System Works Construction Permit Application:

85 Tower Road

Spokespersons: Gary James, project engineer; Mr. & Mrs. Pratt, potential owners; & Jerry Rankin, builder

Mr. James presents to the Board seeking a single variance from the Hingham Supplemental Septic regulations for a proposed new septic system.

- Plans dated 4/12/19, latest revision #2 dated 6/29/19, identify a six (6) bedroom home and carriage house on 2.38 acres. Mr. James said a newer revised plan is forthcoming.
- Mr. James said an extra test pit was conducted, as requested by Mr. Brogna, but not shown on the plan.
- Mr. James said this Form A lot divided from a single lot, approved by the Planning Board.
- Ms. Sarni said the second lot on the plan is shown as unbuildable.
- The proposed dwelling has a standard foundation, except two feet is below grade as ledge is present.
- Mr. James is requesting a variance to Section VI.14, where the bottom of the cellar floor must be at least 18" above seasonal high groundwater.

- Dr. Shilts said there are wetlands on both sides of the proposed septic disposal system.
- Mr. James said this project is on the Planning Board agenda on 8/5/19 and the Conservation Commission agenda on 7/29/19.
- Mr. James said the dwelling is composed of two buildings connected by an enclosed walkway and that both will need the variance. There will be two building drains leaving each of the buildings to the septic system.
- Dr. Eldredge said the distance leaving the dwelling to the leaching field is close to 200 feet, and questioned if it is acceptable to have two building drains that merging before entering the septic tank.
- Mr. James showed the WR Grace Bituthene Membrane waterproofing system on plans.
- Mr. Bickford said there will be blasting to a depth of 10-12 feet in one area of the foundation.
- Dr. Shilts asked how the reserve area will be prepared. Mr. James said it will be prepared with Title 5 sand.
- Dr. Shilts said it seems premature to vote on the application since the Con. Comm. has yet to act and there isn't a set of final plans.
- An abutter would like to discuss drainage easements and other issues on Tower Road. Dr. Eldredge advised him to ask to be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Mr. Bickford and VOTED (unanimous);
to postpone this application for up to 60 days.

Executive Health Officer (EHO) Report:

• **220 Summer St. Update**

Ms. Sarni said there have been extensive alterations to this lot since the Board voted (with conditions) to approve its septic system application, including an unexpected installation of a drainage pipe across the property's lowland field. She said nearly all of the field's vegetation was excavated. Ms. Sarni said the required report on the field's wetland determination by a Private Wetland Scientist (PWS) was also never received.

Mr. Gary James, the engineer of record for the septic system application, agreed to answer questions about this matter. He said there was roughly 5,000-8,000 gallons per day of water flowing across the property. He said they suspected it was a municipal water supply (Aqurion) leak. He said testing showed no fluoride present but there is chlorine at similar levels to tap water. G&L Labs conducted the testing. He said Aqurion does not believe there is a leak. He said that Conservation has jurisdiction over the drainage work being done on the property. He said water pumped in May was due to breakout on the property. He said the installed drainage pipe daylighted towards 3A.

The Board questioned the suggestion that flowing surface water is coming from a water supply leak, where last year's field inspection showed a long-standing drainage ditch and culvert bisecting the field. The Board noted the uplands and ledge surrounding this property and the extensive rains during the preceding months as a more realistic explanation. The Board asked Ms. Sarni to inquire from DPW and Planning how the surface water flowing from this property toward 3A will be addressed before freezing temperatures return.

• **90 Ward St. Update**

Ms. Sarni said she attended a meeting with Town representatives and Aqurion about the approval process to install a water supply line to a lot's dwelling. The Town's acquisition of the water supply system has not been finalized and Aqurion still has jurisdiction over the system. She said Aqurion's state-approved regulations do not allow for 'spaghetti' water supply lines with easements. The regulations require that a supply line must be laid at a right angle from the street's water main to the dwelling.

Ms. Sarni added that the high cost to install a water main in front of 100 and 104 Ward St. (\$250,000, only one bid to date) reflects the unknown amount of ledge removal that may likely be required.

- **Weymouth Natural Gas Compressor Station Update**

Ms. Sarni said the State issued an air quality permit for this proposed project. She said Selectman voted to support Weymouth in their appeal.

- **Hingham Master Plan Committee Appointment**

Ms. Sarni said the newly established Master Plan Committee needs a Board of Health appointment. After being asked ever so politely, Ms. Sarni said she would be willing to represent the Board on this committee.

- **Bedroom and Room Count Guideline**

Ms. Sarni discussed developing a room count guideline for Title 5 inspections and building permit purposes. Thereafter, Ms. Sarni will prepare a draft guideline for future discussion.

- **Health Department Public Information**

Ms. Sarni said Drs. Eldredge and Shilts have asked her about potentially banning the sale of flavored nicotine used for vaping. Dr. Eldredge said teenagers are most attracted to flavored nicotine. Dr. Shilts suggested the health dept. post articles on pertinent public health issues every other month or so, with vaping as the next topic. Ms. Sarni said she will have Nurse Crowley develop a draft article on curbing teenage vaping.

- **Town of Hingham, Private Well Regulations**

Ms. Sarni handed out a draft of possible updates to the Town's Private Well Regulations for future discussion.

Staff Reports:

The Board reviewed the following staff reports:

- **Public Health Nurse Report, (7/15/19)**
- **Social Worker Report, (June 2019)**
- **Food Inspector Report, (June/July)**

Scheduling

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 22 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sarni, MPH

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *Meeting agenda, 7/16/19*
- *Draft meeting minutes, 5/16/19*
- *Report from Mr. Brogna RE: 85 Tower, dated 7/8/19*
- *Form 12: Title 5 for 85 Tower Road, dated 7/15/19*
- *Variance Application for 85 Tower Road, dated 6/3/19*
- *S. Sarni email RE: Aquarion Ward Street Water Bid, dated 7/9/19*

- *Aquarion Request for Bid Ward Street Water Main Extension, dated 6/27/19*
- *Aquarion Water Company M.D.P.U. No 4 Original Sheet No. 3*
- *Proposed Private Well Regulations update, dated 7/9/19*
- *Public Health Nurse Report, June 15, 2019*
- *Social Worker Report, June 2019*
- *Food Inspector Report, June/July 2019*
- *Newspaper article “State approves air quality permit for Weymouth compressor station”, dated 7/16/19*
- *Newspaper article “ Top regulator upholds air permit for planned Weymouth compressor station”, dated 7/12/19*