

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2021, 6:00P.M.
LOCATION: REMOTE

PRESENT: Acting Chairperson Renee D'Argento, Member Stephen Themelis, Health Agent Kalene Gendron, Interim Assistant Trish DeLorey; Residents: Derek Ten Broeck, Mark Mathews, Tony Beattie and Patrick Harrington

Acting Chairperson Renee D'Argento opened the meeting at 6:01p.m. She announced that the meeting was remote participation only; meeting is being cablecast live and recorded by Pepperell Community Media.

ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

35 Shattuck Street – Ground Water Request:

Health Agent Gendron reviewed with the Board a letter from Kevin Ritchie, P.E. of Civil Solutions, Inc. requesting approval from the Pepperell Board of Health to allow a reduction in the requisite groundwater offset from 4 feet to 2 feet with use of the Presby Enviro-Septic Waste Water Treatment System. Ms. Gendron noted that she had reviewed the plan and that the required soil testing was completed. On a motion made by Stephen Themelis; seconded by Renee D'Argento it was voted all in favor to approve the request to allow a reduction in the requisite groundwater offset from 4 feet to 2 feet with use of the Presby Enviro-septic Waste Water Treatment System at 35 Shattuck Street.

96 Mt. Lebanon Street – Ground Water Request:

A letter was read from John Boardman, P.E. of Civil Engineering Design and Consulting Services withdrawing a request that the Board of Health approve a reduced groundwater offset. Resident Derek Ten Broeck stated that he and his wife were in pursuit of purchasing this property and questioned the postponement and current status of the ground water at 96 Mt. Lebanon Street. Health Agent Gendron noted that the property owner retained John Boardman, P.E.; and both Ms. Gendron and Mr. Boardman were concerned of the current fluctuations of the water table on the property. Therefore, further soil testing is planned in the near future to determine the water table. Review and the approval from the Board of Health has been postponed until more information is gathered.

50 Main Street – Planning Board Request Comments on Site Plan Review

Renee D'Argento reviewed with the Board the site plan for 50 Main Street. Kalene Gendron stated that she will submit written comments to the Planning Board on behalf of the Board; noting that full compliance with Lead Paint Regulations and, if applicable, an Asbestos inspection may be required. She will also emphasize that best management practices must be adhered to in order to avoid nuisance conditions. The Board members stated that they had no

additional comments and thanked Ms. Gendron for submitting these written comments to the Planning Board.

35 Mt. Lebanon Street – Zoning Board of Appeals Request Comments on Application

Renee D'Argento reviewed with the Board a new ZBA application, requesting both a variance (to allow an accessory apartment to be located outside the primary residential structure, in a new addition to be attached to an existing detached garage) and a Special Permit (to allow an accessory apartment). The ZBA requests submittal of comments by May 13th. Health Agent Gendron stated that if the Board agrees she will submit written comments to the ZBA on behalf of the Board. Ms. Gendron recapped that she will request a complete room count, excluding bathrooms and unfinished areas for review. A sketch or a list by floor will be acceptable to ensure that the proposed addition does not exceed the approved capacity for the septic permit of record; as permit dated 12/10/1974 is for three (3) bedrooms. Also, a Title 5 inspection must be completed and submitted for review. As well as a scaled plan must be submitted for review to ensure the addition meets all offsets as required by Title 5 (CMR 15.211) and, if applicable, the Pepperell Well Regulations. The Board thanked Ms. Gendron for submitting her comments on their behalf. Discussion ensued between Board members and Health Agent regarding detached accessory apartments. Stephen Themelis noted that he would like a determination by the Building Inspector on this type of dwelling. Ms. Gendron noted that she plans to bring this topic up again at a future meeting as accessory apartments will probably become more common and she would like to review the consensus of the Board.

Mosquito Plan Review – Discussion Continuation from 4/27/21 PBOH Meeting:

Acting Chairperson Renee D'Argento referenced a draft of a Mosquito Opt-Out Plan that she and Health Agent Gendron had recently worked on. Overall it is a plan featuring outreach and public education on what people can do to reduce their risk of mosquito borne diseases.

Ms. D'Argento read for the record the paragraphs included in the draft. She noted under the Education – Outreach and Public Relations Section of the State Mosquito Opt-Out Plan Application that it read as follows:

Public education about mosquito-borne diseases (MBD), particularly modes of transmitting and means of preventing or reducing risk for exposure, is a critical component of a prevention and control program. Communication and public awareness activities are designed to provide pertinent information both before and during the mosquito season. The goals of the communications and public awareness plan are to:

- Educate municipal officials, the public, and media on MBD, disease prevention recommendations including personal protective measures and homeowner source reduction, and the personal use of larvicides and other control methods.*
- Increase awareness among health care providers about the virus, its prevention and diagnosis, and information about pesticides.*
- Communicate in a timely and efficient manner, with municipal officials, the public and other state agencies.*
- Disseminate routine program information from state agencies to municipal officials, the public*

and media.

- *Disseminate relevant information and recommendations to municipal officials, the public and media in response to the identification of MBD in Pepperell.*
- *Cooperate with key environmental organizations to review and disseminate public information materials.**

**Information obtained from CT WNV Surveillance*

Plan <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/mosquito/documents/CTwnvplan.pdf>

Based on the applicable determination of risk level issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the Town of Pepperell will take a series of actions that are designed to meet arbovirus threats to our community. This will also align with the Pepperell's Master Plan goal of MBD prevention; Partners include the Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Committee.

Low Risk/Start of Season – In May:

Messages via Town Website and Health Department webpage, press release to local media outlets to include information on how to prepare for and how to prevent exposure to arbovirus.

In A Moderate Risk Situation:

All of the above will occur and we will be adding the following information: Using mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens; and dump standing water twice weekly.

In a High Risk Situation:

All of the above in the Low/Moderate Area and adding the following information: SMART 911 Alert as a method to inform the public of increased risk and precautions. People over the age of 50 and those who are immune compromised should adjust outdoor activity to avoid mosquito peak hours (from dusk to dawn), and Public Recreation and Open Space Areas are posted with warning signs and/or closed from dusk to dawn.

In a Critical Situation:

All of the above, and added to this will be situation-specific recommendations by the Mass. DPH, Pepperell Board of Health, and Select Board. Closure of Public Recreation and Open Space Areas will occur from dusk to dawn.

Ms. D'Argento stated that the above was a recap of the overall plan. She noted that she was currently creating an educational pamphlet on mosquitos for public distribution. Discussion ensued regarding safe mosquito repellants and source mosquito reduction. Noting natural predators, i.e. bats and dragon flies to control the mosquito population.

Ms. D'Argento noted that the Select Board's Meeting Agenda of May 10th includes a Mosquito Spraying discussion. She hopes that the community will attend this public meeting and provide their input to the Select Board. She anticipates the Select Board, after conferring with the Board of Health and hearing citizen's concerns will vote to opt out of the State Aerial Mosquito Spraying Program for the 2021 season. She mentioned that the deadline for submittal of the State's Application to Opt Out of the Mosquito Spraying Program is May 15, 2021.

Private Well Regulations – Review

Renee D’Argento stated that this discussion started at our last meeting when we learned that the DPW voted on a moratorium to stop the sale of deduct meters to allow residents to irrigate their outside properties and not be charged for sewer because the water was not going into the sewer system. The reason for this moratorium was the DPW did not expect people to be watering their lawns with a mandatory water ban in effect. During these discussions, it was also noted that the Board of Health has purview over private irrigation wells and they could potentially put a moratorium over irrigation wells to compliment what the DPW has done.

Ms. D’Argento noted that according to the Mass. Association of Health Boards, the local Board of Health may make health regulations pursuant to Chapter 111 Section 31 which includes regulations of private wells. In addition to issuing regulations on private wells, the local Board of Health have authority to issue orders during drought conditions that would require private well owners to discontinue use of a water supply; particularly irrigation wells. She noted the DPW website which lists the rules and guidelines of the Mandatory Water Ban in effect because of the current drought conditions.

Discussion ensued. Stephen Themelis stated he was not for a moratorium on private irrigation wells as it has been referenced that we have one aquifer in the Town of Pepperell; when there is actually several. Mr. Themelis feels that more research must be done before a moratorium is in place. He questioned the age of current well regulations. Health Agent Gendron noted that the current well regulations; naming Section 6.11 on Irrigation Wells is a living document and the Board of Health can vote to modify these current regulations when they feel it is necessary.

Renee D’Argento read a Massachusetts Drought Management Report written by a task force from the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). She asked Mr. Themelis to please consider the items listed in the report when making his decision on a moratorium on private irrigation wells.

As discussion ensued, Tony Beattie asked that clarification be made between residential irrigation vs. farm irrigation when and if a moratorium is ever implemented.

Pat Harrington noted that he has just been in receipt of some aquifer maps and will be meeting with the DPW Director for review and clarification. He will be happy to share these maps with the Board of Health once more information is obtained.

Additional conversations continued among attendees regarding drought conditions, the role of MassDEP as they oversee the public water supply, working as a team with the DPW; and future water supply and its demand within the Town of Pepperell. Public education regarding water conservation and alternatives to grassed lawns was also reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Stephen Themelis, seconded by Renee D’Argento, it was voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Trish DeLorey, Interim Assistant to the Board of Health