

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

Ronald Etskovitz, Chair
Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Clerk
Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director

Ed Burman, Member
John Byrnes, Member
Bernadette Lunkuse, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Ron Etskovitz, Barbra Sekesogundu-Simon, Ed Burman and Jay Byrnes

Members Absent

Bernadette Lunkuse

Others Present:

Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Assistant
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Eric Dickinson, Engineer, Civilized Solutions

Call Meeting to Order, 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

Citizens Participation

Mark Dassoni inquired as to COVID vaccines for children under five years old; Mr. Gupta noted that this will be discussed under Health Agent/Director's agenda.

Septic System Replacement, Variance Request, 29 Dean Road

Eric Dickinson, Engineer, noted this was a very challenging lot, there are many variances being requested due to size constraints. There are high tension wires in the back, as well as a 100-foot easement owned by Boston Edison Transmission Company going through the property, they are restricted from having a septic system within the easement, and the property is only 13,000 square feet. They are proposing a tank behind the property, connecting to a pump chamber. They will need to tear up part of the driveway, and will use a stone leaching bed. Mr. Dickinson reviewed the variances being requested. Mr. Byrnes inquired as to the difference between leaching beds and trenches; Mr. Dickinson stated that beds are theoretically known to fail prematurely; trenches just have stone in certain areas. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to what information needs to be on the Deed Restriction; Mr. Gupta stated that only the garbage disposal requirement needs to be on the Deed Restriction.

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a waiver from Ashland Board of Health regulations 303-7 to allow the subsurface sewage disposal system to be designed utilizing two deep holes versus the required three deep holes, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman Seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Ashland Board of Health Regulations Section 303-11 to allow the subsurface sewage disposal system to be designed without a garbage disposal with the conditions that no garbage disposal be installed within the house and a deed

recording be placed on the property stating no garbage disposal shall be installed in the house while the subsurface sewage disposal system is in use, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Ashland Board of Health Regulations Section 303-11(d) to allow for the use of a leaching bed, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Massachusetts Local Upgrade approvals from Title 5 Regulations

310 CMR 15.405 (1)(a)

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Title 5 Regulation 310 CMR 15.405(1)(a), to allow a reduction in the setback of the soil absorption system to the front property line of 5-feet, versus the required 10-feet, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Title 5 Regulation 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b) to allow a reduction in the setback of the soil absorption system to the foundation wall of 11.7-feet, versus the required 20-feet, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(c)

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Title 5 Regulation 310 CMR 15.405(1)(c) to allow up to a 25% reduction in the required subsurface disposal area design requirements, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(i)

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Title 5 Regulation 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i) to allow the soil absorption system to be designed on the basis of a sieve analysis versus a percolation test, for 29 Dean Road. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Septic System Replacement, Variance Request, 11 Loring Road

Mr. Dickinson explained that this plan is very simple; the one thing they were not able to do was run a percolation test; when they dug down between 30-48 inches, the percolation hole started to fill with water. They sent the soil out to UMass Labs, and came back with a rate they used in the design. This is technically a variance for Title 5.

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to grant a variance from Title 5 Regulation 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i) to allow the soil absorption system to be designed on the basis of a sieve analysis versus a percolation test for 11 Loring Drive. Mr. Burman seconded it.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Member, John Byrnes, Agenda

RAM, Remote Area Medical, Update

Mr. Byrnes explained that they have formally put together the Leadership Team which includes: Steve Mitchell, Ed Burman, Ed Hart and himself; they met for the first time last week. A RAM representative will be coming out on July 13, 2022 for an official site visit at Keefe Tech; at that time, they will have an idea as to the number of patients they could potentially see there, as well as other metrics. The Lynn Clinic has been in the planning stages for a year,

and have determined their location, this Clinic will run from the August 26th – 28th; Mr. Byrnes will observe this Clinic as it is a model we can learn from. Mr. Burman added that they will also speak to Representative Spilka to see if MassHealth can be set up to sign people up for MassHealth services. Mr. Etskovitz noted this is a great undertaking, and expressed his appreciation; Mr. Etskovitz added that he will be happy to volunteer his medical services. (Ms. Sekesogundu Simon arrived at the meeting.)

Consent Agenda:

Review and Approve Board of Health Meeting Minutes, June 7, 2022

Review Year-to-Date Budget Reports, FY2022

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the meeting minutes. Mr. Byrnes seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

Health Director's Agenda:

COVID-19, Update

Mr. Gupta explained that the COVID-19 numbers are not the actual numbers, as many people are using home testing kits. We are seeing approximately 2-3 cases each day. Mr. Gupta noted that a COVID booster clinic was held at Town Hall last week, 22 doses were administered. Test kits are still available at Town Hall. CDC has approved vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years, we will plan clinics according to demand.

Farmers' Market

Mr. Gupta noted that we have had inspections each week at the Farmers' Market, we had one vendor who was unpermitted who we are working with.

MBCC (Mass. Breast Cancer Coalition)

Mr. Gupta explained a situation involving the MBCC regarding an event at Hopkinton State Park. The coordinator had expected us to issue temporary food permits despite their applying after the deadline; the event is over now, but it was very unsettling.

Childhood Vaccine Program, Update

Mr. Gupta reported that the childhood Vaccine Program is doing great, we had 43 Ashland children vaccinated so they can begin school. We are also sending out a survey to gauge the interest in the Shingles Vaccine, through the MetroWest Health Shared Services.

MetroWest Tobacco Control District Grant, Update

The MetroWest Tobacco Control District Grant has been extended to June 30, 2023.

Delta 8 Products

Mr. Gupta explained that Delta 8 Products are synthetically dried from hemp, they contain a lower level of THC and therefore do not require to go through the Cannabis Commission. They fall under our jurisdiction and we will be watching for Delta 8 Products and if we see them, will have them removed.

Shelf Website

Mr. Gupta explained that this is a website in which local people can use their own kitchens to prepare and deliver meals; under the Food Code this is not allowed. Shelf stable products are allowed to be prepared with a Residential Kitchen Permit. We found there is one in Ashland and we are working with DPH to find out the location.

Housing Issues

Mr. Gupta explained there are two open cases with the Ashland Housing Authority, as well as one at Chestnut Place on Joanne Drive.

Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to the Public Health Nurse position; Mr. Gupta said we will be posting this soon. We do have good support from the MetroWest Shared Services.

Mr. Byrnes inquired if Delta 8 falls under the vote that was taken to not allow marijuana to be sold in Ashland; Mr. Gupta noted they are coming in the form of vape products. We will be

sending out letters to retailers, and seeking out legal advice because it is a bit of a gray area with it being new.

Ms. Sekesogundu Simon inquired as to whether there are any upcoming COVID vaccine clinics; Mr. Gupta noted that there are no clinics scheduled at this time; he can be contacted if anyone has a specific need, he can look in other communities.

Reorganization of the Board

The Board agreed to wait for a full Board to vote on Reorganization of the Board.

Discuss July and August Meeting Dates and Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

Mr. Etskovitz noted that in the past, the Board will typically meet only once during the months of July and August. The Board agreed to plan to have the next meeting on July 5, 2022.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 6/21/2022 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Design Plan and Variance Request, 29 Dean Road
2. Design Plan and Variance Request, 11 Loring Road
3. YTD Budget Report, YTD Revolving Fund Budget Report
4. June 7, 2022 draft Meeting Minutes
5. A recording of the meeting is available at WACATV.com