

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Hildreth House

Board Members present: Lorin Johnson, Sharon McCarthy; Thomas Philippou, Chairman
Also present; Ira Grossman (NABH), Will Dumont, Jim Morin, Dan Ottenhemer
Mr. Philippou called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Election of Officers

Mr. Philippou made a motion to nominate Ms. McCarthy as Harvard BoH Chair, Ms. Levison seconded the motion. All vote “aye”.

Discussion –

187 Prospect Hill Road septic system replacement – Mr. Dumont attended the meeting to discuss options for the replacement and upgrade of his current system. Mr. James Morin, as the designer for a proposed new upgrade plan, discussed a plan for the implementation of a “drip system”. Mr. Morin addressed points outlining his estimate in initial cost savings over a traditional system and the greater well offset distance. With a drip system there would be a requirement for an annual waste water operator’s contract. The system presented could only be approved as an upgrade for the existing two bedroom home. Mr. Grossman expressed concern regarding the reduced offsets requested to and the high groundwater due to the extent of the bedrock and lack of pervious soil, high percolation rate and well location.. Mr. Grossman also mentioned potential problems for the final grading. Mr. Dumont inquired as to why Harvard’s requirements differ from other towns in the state. Concern with topography of the ledge was addressed. Mr. Grossman addressed the the Boards “moratorium” for the use of the drip system due to a failure of that system in town and the history of failures at the State’s testing facility on the cape for a similar system. A brief discussion regarding the failed drip system and the replacement being larger than the original was presented. The Board of Health members discussed their concerns over the extensive bedrock formations at the facility and the proposal for the reduced groundwater offset and suggested that additional protection needs to be provided. Additional soil testing is required to ensure that there is at least the minimum of two feet of pervious soil below the entire proposed relocated leaching area.

Mr. Morin requested permission from the board in moving forward and pretreating the property. Mr. Morin stated he hoped to continue being transparent and working with the BoH to implement this new technology. Mr. Morin and Mr. Ottenhemer, the company representative for the drip system, will follow up with additional information to the board regarding options to enlarge the size of the system they would be proposing as he sensed this was a concern for the board. Ms. McCarthy welcomed the additional information and felt optimistic in the possibility of finding a way forward, contingent upon the system meeting requirements. Mr. Morin will work on the revision and the exploration needed to determine if suitable soil exists in the area of the proposed leaching system.

New Business -

Mr. Philippou attended a conference on new Lyme disease testing and shared a few information points with the members.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Ms. McCarthy moved to accept the meeting minutes of 4.26.2016 and Mr. Philippou seconded the motion. All voted "aye"

Old Business –

87 Ayer Road – Boarded up home. Ms. Levison has heard recent concerns from neighbors. The boards covering the windows/door have been removed and the home has now become a "party house" for teens. Mr. Levison will send a request to Gabe for follow up.

Discussion – Gross Alpha

A policy is in draft and the conversation will continue at the 5/24/2016 meeting.

Adjournment – Ms. McCarthy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Ms. Levison seconded. All voted "aye".