



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5009 • 508-393-3130 Fax

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dilip Jain, Glenn French, Tina Hill and Swati Sane
Town: Casey Mellin - Health Agent, Katie Holt- Admin to Health Dept.
Northborough Residents: Susan Stasaitis, Julianne Hirsh, Chad Bedard
Other: Mark Farrell (Greenhill Engineering)

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 in the Selectman's Meeting Room of the Northborough Town Offices. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Glenn French.

6:01 - Meeting Notes Review

Glenn French made the motion to approve the 6/12/2018 minutes as recorded, the motion was seconded by Dilip Jain, all in favor.

6:08 - Health Agent Update

Casey Mellin, Health Agent, gave the Board Members an update on the status of the Health Department.

Mr. Mellin told to the Board that there have now been three mosquito samples in Northborough that tested positive for West Nile Virus and that notices and spray maps have been posted on the Health Department's and Town's website and have been sent via email through the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Mellin provided an update on the restaurants in town - the first round of inspections have been completed for the year. In House Coffee is planning to open at 17 West Main Street, The Steak Loft is being sold, and the Subway located on West Main Street is closed.

Mr. Mellin has continued documenting odor complaints relating to Santo Anza's property on Whitney Street and mentioned that the Town is filing a civil complaint against Santo Anza; he will be attending the hearing on August 16 at Worcester Superior Court. Mr. Mellin was also in attendance of a composting hearing in Foxboro which took place on August 1st. The hearing was hosted by MDAR and the purpose was to receive feedback and concerns regarding their draft regulations.

6:25 - Request for Variance - 60 Brewer Street

Mark Farrell from Greenhill Engineering requested a septic variance for 60 Brewer Street on behalf of REMAX Construction. The variance requested that a new septic be placed 60 feet from the well at 56 Brewer Street, which is under the required 100 feet. They also requested that the system be 7 feet from the foundation as opposed to the 10 feet which is required. The owner of 56 Brewer Street, Chad Bedard, was present at the meeting. Glenn French asked if it was possible to put the system elsewhere on the property, Mr. Farrell explained that although it is possible, it could

cost up to \$30,000 to do so due to the topography of the lot. Tina Hill asked Mr. Farrell if REMAX Construction was aware of these issues before buying the property to which Mr. Farrell replied that no, they did not. The property had been bank owned and was sold “as is”. According to Mr. Farrell, the extra costs to move the proposed system would come from additional land clearing and water table issues. Mr. French asked if there was any way to insure additional protection to Mr. Bedard’s well. Mr. Farrell said they could possibly add a swale, which is a gentle ditch that would help divert water into a different direction rather than towards Mr. Bedard’s well. Mr. French asked if there were any other possibilities that could be explored due to the fact that the variances being requested are rather significant. Swati Sane suggested that REMAX drills Mr. Bedard a new well if this variance is granted - Mr. Farrell stated this would cost roughly \$8,000 rather than the additional \$30,000 it could cost to relocate the proposed septic. Mr. Farrell agreed that he would explore this option with REMAX Construction. Mr. French also asked Mr. Farrell to look into asking the owner of 112 Brewer Street if they could temporarily use part of his property as construction access to another section of 60 Brewer Street which would cut down on land clearing costs. It was concluded by Mr. French that these two other options need to be further explored before the variance can be either approved or denied. Mr. Farrell agreed to reach out to the appropriate parties to discuss other options and left at 6:50.

6:51 - Request for Public Comment

Julianne Hirsh of 19 Smith Road stated that she had concerns following her attendance of the August 1st composting hearing in Foxboro which was hosted by MDAR. Susan Stasaitis of 318 Green Street also noted that she had attended the August 1st hearing. Ms. Hirsh expressed concerns specifically regarding a gentleman that shared his experience with developing aspergillosis after working in the composting industry for years. He claimed that his doctors had agreed that he had likely developed this fungal disease as a result of working with compost. Ms. Hirsh asked the Board Members what their opinion was on this disease. Mr. French said that he had no information on this disease other than what Ms. Hirsh just stated, so he didn’t have an opinion on it. Mr. French explained that the Board of Health cannot act on the theory that this one man in another town got sick as a result of working with compost. He explained that there would have to be proven medical evidence brought to the Board of Health showing cause and effect. Swati Sane added that there would be a stronger argument if more than one person had developed this disease. Ms. Hirsh asked Mr. French to confirm that the Board of Health will not get involved in this possible disease situation. Mr. French replied that he is not saying that the Board of Health is unwilling to get involved, but he is saying that there has been no scientific evidence presented to the Board of Health linking this disease and composting. The Board of Health cannot get involved unless there is a proven public health issue. The information that was brought to the Board of Health by Ms. Hirsh is simply a theory at this point. Dilip Jain further reiterated the role of the Board of Health and its limitations without the presence of scientific evidence.

Establish future meeting date

The next Board of Health meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM by Glenn French, seconded by Dilip Jain, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Holt