

**BOARD OF HEALTH – TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2020 – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: *Wendy Parrinello, Board Secretary*

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Observer Tribune and Daily Record on February 3, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: *Led by Ken West*

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Goswami
Ms. Reale
Mr. Smith
Mr. Weber
Mr. West

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2020 MINUTES

Approved. Mr. West motions to approve. Mr. Weber seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL: YES – Dr. Goswami, Ms. Reale, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weber, Mr. West

BUSINESS:

**BLOCK 120 LOT 19 – APPLICANT: MICHAEL & CONSTANCE BUTTOMER AND CAREAGA ENGINEERING
APPLICATION: DISTANCE VARIANCE**

- Robin Sellitto of Careaga Engineering, Inc. is requesting an approval for a 13 ft. variance for the setback for the disposal field to the front yard setback. Mendham requires 25ft. to the front property line. Ms. Sellitto is asking for a setback to the front property line because it's not affecting anyone.
- Ms. Sellitto explains that the home has an existing 1000-gallon septic tank and it goes to a seepage pit. That seepage pit will be abandoned in place. There is also a gray water seepage pit that hasn't been abandoned but the plumbing has already been rerouted in the home to run to the black water system. It's noted on the plan to abandon the gray water pit when abandoning the black water pit. The existing 1000-gallon tank will remain.

- Speaking for Careaga Engineering, Inc., Ms. Sellitto is proposing the Presby System. The Presby System was approved by the DEP in March of 2019. There are currently 127 Presby Systems in the ground throughout various counties in New Jersey.
- The advantages of the Presby System are as follows:
 - a. Pretreatment gravity system.
 - b. Cost Effective – the existing septic tank, if in good working condition, remains, so there is no tank expense. In general, a pretreatment tank is roughly 7-8k. Pipes and connectors are \$3600.
 - c. The treatment is done out in the field – by aeration - the use of a low vent and a high vent is put into place so that the air is flowing through the pipes in the system.
 - d. Presby Systems can be installed on slopes up to 25%. You can install the field on a slope, as well. With this project (18 Twin Park Drive) we can work with the current slopes that exist on the contours of the ground.
 - e. Pipes can be buried up to 8ft. in the ground.
- The Presby pipes are surrounded by C33 sand, there's no stone, it's all sand. In New Jersey, C33-sand is required in the septic field.
- There are two different venting options. A low vent and a high vent.
- The low vent can be off to the side so that it's not in view. Careaga always shows it at the end of the field. There's no minimum or maximum distance to the end of the field. The low vent has to be 3ft. above the ground – for snow.
- Mr. West asks what happens in the serial pipe if effluent is running through and it doesn't percolate into the bed by the time it gets to the end of the pipe? Ms. Sellitto states that on the second page of the plans – at the top, there is a two-inch drop detail - when the pipe fills up to the maximum liquid level it then flows to the second pipe in the series.
- Mr. Weber and Ms. Sellitto confirm that the excess effluent flows into the next pipe. It continues in a series and connects at the end. Excess will always flow in a series.
- Ms. Sellitto explains that there is a 3ft high, low vent and then a high vent because the air is coming in through the low vent and out through the high vent – there is no blower, it's circulation.
- Ms. Goswami asks why are the vents needed on both sides? Ms. Sellitto explains that that is how the air flows through the system. Airflow is the most important factor in the Presby system. This system is aerobic instead of anaerobic. This is the same concept of aeration, but only in the field.
- The high vent has to be 10ft. above the low vent and there are two venting options. The house vent as the high vent – Careaga does not recommend this. Careaga prefers using a remote high vent. The distribution box would have to have an extra outlet for the high vent to run out of. The high vent would come out of the distribution box and can be placed up a tree; it can be attached to the side of the home, or it can be attached to a post in the ground. The reason for the remote venting recommendation has to do with the

function of the airflow in the system. If a homeowner decides to make plumbing alterations, a problem can arise on the house vent.

- To know that the venting is working – when Tri-State goes out for their startup, they have a smoke test – a smoke machine is run into the low vent and they make sure it's coming out of the high vent. As part of their maintenance agreement, a smoke test is always repeated.
- Ms. Goswami and Ms. Reale ask about the odor from the vents of the Presby System. Ms. Sellitto states that venting is not done through the septic tank; it's done through the field. Tri-state and Careaga have had no complaints in terms of odor. Careaga recommends that if running a high vent up the side of the home, it needs to be above the roof peak.
- Mr. Weber asks if on this particular project, will the vent run back through the house and not off the d-box? Ms. Sellitto explains that there are two options. Careaga recommends using the remote venting for the high vent. The septic tank filter is only required (and this is a Presby requirement) if remote high venting is used. If the house vent is used as the high vent, then the filter cannot be used. This is why Careaga recommends the remote high venting - so that the filter can be on the septic tank.
- The filter goes into the outlet baffle on the septic tank.
- Mr. Smith asks what is being filtered? Ms. Sellitto states that the system is filtering out any fines before it goes out of the septic tank and into the field - that it's an effluent filter and that the new code requires an effluent filter (on the septic tank).
- Mr. Weber and Ms. Reale ask how often the septic system needs to be serviced? Ms. Sellitto states every three years – when the septic tank is scheduled to be pumped out. When maintenance is done on the Presby system, the filter will be checked. This system requires annual inspection and requires a maintenance contract.
- Mr. Mills asks if one has had the expensive conventional pretreatment tank, what does that do that this (Presby system) makes it not need to do? Ms. Sellitto states that the difference is aeration in the tank and that the Presby system is putting air through the field. Mr. Mills asks what is the lifespan of the pipe? Ms. Sellitto, states that there is no lifespan, but that the first one was put in the ground in 2014 and there have been no issues with that one. Mr. Mills comments that the system would become clogged at some point – the fines will clog it up? Mr. Smith says an aerobic tank minimizes or eliminates the bio-burden material that damages the field – that can be aerated whether it's above or something else – you clarify the water - it's no longer black and murky because it's consuming itself. It's cleaner when it comes out.
- Ms. Sellitto brings an example of the Presby pipe and gives a visual explanation of how it will operate.
- Mr. West asks why the size of that pipe? Mr. Smith says so that the air gets by.

- Mr. Smith asks what would be the difference if you had a three-bedroom configuration? Ms. Sellitto explains that the difference would be the length of pipe. Presby requires 50 linear feet per bedroom and that Presby has a calculation for sizing out the field. Careaga sizes the field per DEP regulations for a pretreatment gravity system and then they fit in that area that the DEP requires. Careaga is using the DEP requirement for the field size and using Presby's requirement for linear feet.
- Mr. Smith asks can regular lawn and landscaping be done? Ms. Sellitto says yes, grass can be placed on top, just like a conventional system.
- Mr. Mills asks is the disposal bed smaller or larger than if you had a conventional system? Ms. Sellitto states that a conventional system without pretreatment is still smaller, but the pretreatment gravity system is the same size square footage.
- Mr. Smith questions the loss of the UV light protection that a conventional system utilizes. Ms. Sellitto says that Presby will not allow you to put a UV light on the system. If the homeowners existing septic tank was not okay and they weren't on slopes like this, Careaga would consider other pretreatment systems. The gravity Presby system makes sense for this project.
- Mr. West notes the description on the pipe: 'pipe ridges allow the effluent to flow uninterrupted around the circumference of the pipe and aid in cooling.' Mr. West asks, how does that flow around the circumference? An answer is not determined.
- Mr. Smith asks if this system can be put into a leveled bed? Ms. Sellitto states that the system can work in a sloped or a leveled bed. In a leveled bed, all pipes are filled at the same time at the same elevation. With sloped beds – it's going into the distribution box and then going into the first set of Presby pipes and it's flowing serial through there.
- Mr. West remarks that Presby is only allowed on repairs right now. Ms. Sellitto confirms that unless you want to go to the DEP for a treatment works application, yes, the Presby is only allowed on repairs.
- Mr. West states that the distance to the road is not an issue. If the state of New Jersey is approving this, then we will support them. Mr. West asks Ms. Freer of her opinion on this. Ms. Freer defers to Careaga Engineering, as the experts and trusts their opinion of the Presby System.
- Ms. Freer points out that Chris Korshalla wants water and gas lines marked before construction begins. Ms. Sellitto says, it's noted in two places on the plan for the contractor to verify that the lines are marked.

Mr. West motions to approve as presented. Mr. Weber seconds the motion

ROLL CALL: YES – Dr. Goswami, Ms. Reale, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weber, Mr. West

HEALTH OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

January 2020

Reviewed by Ms. Freer. Full reports available in the Board of Health Office

Coronavirus, COVID-19 is an Emerging Infectious Disease: Originally the Morris County Department of Health was sending out fact-sheets to local towns to have on their sites and in their offices, but with the daily changes, the County is directing inquiries to the CDC, the Department of Health and the NJ Poison Information system. CDC will measure how they're treating these changes.

Mr. West motions to accept the report. Mr. Weber seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Yes – Dr. Goswami, Ms. Reale, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weber, Mr. West

SUCH MATTERS THAT MAY RIGHTFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Discussion: How important is it to the Board for the Township Committee to see a written statement in defense of the Board of Health?

In an effort to combine the Boards thoughts on the matter of a change in structure to the BOH, Mr. Weber drafted a 4-page letter to the Township Committee.

- Mr. West's initial thoughts were to draft a one page, executive summary to the Township Committee.
- Mr. Mills and Dr. Goswami concur that the longer letter dictates the seriousness of continuing with the current Board structure as is.
- Mr. West and Mr. Weber discuss how to best word current member longevity on the Board. Both want to demonstrate that while there is continuity, there is still rotation and career diversity.
- Dr. Goswami states, while there are members that have been on the Board for many years, it allows for expertise and intellectual development over time and that because these are not elected positions, there's less risk of there being a loss of knowledge every couple of years with this BOH.
- Mr. Weber states that more language about the longevity of the Board members could be incorporated into the letter. In addition, the Board members' individual expertise, in terms of their career positions can be articulated.
- Mr. Weber brings up the cost-benefit analysis, brought up by the Deputy Mayor. Dr. Goswami, states that, cost benefit requires not just cost savings, but what is the benefit? This letter argues that there is a huge benefit that they would be losing by just saving (possibly) a few thousand dollars.
- Dr. Goswami would like it to be clear that the Board recommends that any sort of discussion be with public input.
- Mr. Weber's perspective on the public process with the Township Committee is that it sounds challenging. Neither Mr. Weber nor Dr. Goswami have intentions of sounding challenging or causing issues by suggesting that this be a public process.

- Mr. Weber states that he does not believe that Mr. Monaghan presented that there was any indication that there may have been complaints about the Board. The general sense of the Board is that Mr. Monaghan was evasive on this matter.
- The Board, in general, feels that if there are issues that the Township Committee has with the Board of Health, that both parties should be working together to fix it, rather than suggesting to disband the BOH.
- Essentially, there are 5 adults with specialty work, pointed interests and established careers, who are volunteering their time and knowledge to service the community. Board of Health members have continued to serve multiple three year terms while still having turnover and maintaining keen insights to matters that come before the Board. The concern is that the Township Committee will have difficulty in giving the same attention to detail, that the Board works through during its roughly 2 hour monthly meetings.
- Mr. Weber will adjust the letter so that it notes Board member credentials, time on the Board and expertise. The letter will be given to the Township Committee by February 25, 2020.

Mr. West motions that we accept the letter as presented and authorizes Mr. Weber to add credentials of the Board and length of participation of its members. Mr. Smiths seconds.

ROLL CALL: Yes – Dr. Goswami, Ms. Reale, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weber, Mr. West

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02 pm