

BOARD OF HEALTH – TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 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 Benjamin Weber*

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020 MINUTES

Approved as amended. Mr. Smith motions to approve. Mr. West seconds the motion.

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

BUSINESS:

BLOCK 127 LOT 44 – APPLICANT: 5 FRANKLIN DRIVE, ALLEGRO ADULT SERVICES – C/O BILL RUSSELL - CAREAGA ENGINEERING
APPLICATION: DISTANCE VARIANCE

- Robin Sellitto of Careaga Engineering, Inc. explains that this application is for an alteration for a 4-bedroom septic system. The current system has an existing 1000-gallon septic tank and one single seepage pit in the center of the backyard. There's a well in the front yard and that well has 50 feet of casing as per health department code.
- Careaga is proposing a new pretreatment system, in the backyard, that can use the existing septic tank. The proposed system is the Ecoflo tank - the coco filter tank.
- Ms. Sellitto explains that there are a number of variances.
 - a. This building is a slab and does not have a basement. The requirement from the disposal field to the slab is 15' ft. We are asking for a 7.7' ft. variance.
 - b. Lot 29, requesting 20' ft. variance

- c. Lot 39 requesting a 13.9' ft. variance.
 - d. Lot 43 requesting a 12.8' ft. variance.
 - e. Distance from the wall to the property line. New septic regulations require that whatever the height of the wall is, it should be that distance off the property line. This project requires about 4' ft. off the property line and we are around 1.5' ft. A 2.7' ft. variance is being requested.
- Ms. Silletto explains that lot 44 is a really tight lot and that Careaga is doing pretreatment to reduce these variances as much as possible.
 - Ms. Silletto states that certified letters have been sent to the above property (lot) owners, indicating that they are welcome to be a part of the BOH Zoom meeting and to contact Ms. Parrinello in the Department of Health via email or phone call to receive the Zoom link.
 - Ms. Silletto indicates that the wells on all of these properties are well within distance and setback requirements and that all three of these property variances that are being requested meet setback requirements.
 - Dr. Goswami asks to clarify on the adjacent lots – if the BOH agrees to these variances, will these homeowners have the opportunity to come back and request reconsideration of that?
 - Mr. Mills states, no, the homeowners would have to appear at the BOH meeting.
 - Mr. Smith asks, are any of those homeowners part of the Woodland Lakes and/or Shores Road, LLC?
 - Ms. Freer states that 9 Shores, lot 29, which is over 100 acres, is part of the Shores Road LLC. Their preliminary septic design was closer to the property line, but there is room to move it back if necessary. The owners have not come forward with any current plans.
 - Mr. West states, that because the lot is so tight, we almost have to give them approval, that there aren't many options.
 - Mr. Mills asks, is Allegro Adult Services a group home, and Ms. Silletto confirms, yes, it is. Mr. Mills asks if the Zoning Department has been contacted and Ms. Silletto says, no.
 - Mr. Weber inquires whether there are multiple residents living in this home? Mr. Smith confirms that this is a home with multiple adult residents diagnosed with autism and learning behaviors. Allegro Adult Services has been in existence for roughly 20 years.
 - Mr. Weber asks, where is the wall issue? Is it the line of round circles that we see along that back lot line that will sure up the mounds? Ms. Sellitto replies that in order to have that level field, that wall is required and that its max height is 3.67 ft.
 - Mr. Smith questions, if there are any concerns digging so close to a house that's on a slab? Ms. Sellitto says, no, the code is 15' ft. and that is why we show that liner around a section of the field, where it is within 15' ft. of the slab and also within 10' ft. of the wall.
 - Mr. West states, once again, there is really no alternative but to approve the project because of the tight lot size, but also acknowledges that the lots are all well established. Mr. Smith agrees with Ken.

- Mr. Mills and Mr. West discuss the possibility of a homeowner wanting to join the BOH Zoom meeting, but running into technical difficulties, which wouldn't allow them to be a part of the discussion. What happens in these instances?
- Mr. Mills suggests that this would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Mr. West agrees and states, we could be forgiving and re-discuss anything if need be.
- Mr. Weber asks, how long ago was notice given to the neighbors? Ms. Sellitto replies, 7 days ago and if for some reason the neighbors needed to reach out to Ms. Parrinello, they would have time do so. Work will not begin immediately.
- Mr. West asks if there are no further comments that he would ask for a vote.

Mr. West motions to approve as presented. Motion is seconded.

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

**BLOCK 131.01 LOT 1.05 – APPLICANT: PITNEY FARM DEVELOPMENT
APPLICATION: NEW SEPTIC CONSTRUCTION – 3 PITNEY FARM DRIVE – KASTRUD
ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING AND LAND PLANNING ASSOCIATES, LLC (E&LP)**

- Comments from Ms. Freer and Mr. Korshalla illustrate that everything with this plan is inline and correct with code.
- Mr. West states that there are two sets of drawings – one is the proposal and one is the current plan. The reserve area and the disposal area are reversed on the two plans, which doesn't make a difference, as either will work.
- Mr. Weber asks to confirm that we are only approving one lot within the Pitney development. Yes, in unison.
- Mr. West explains that the spacing for the home works, that there are no variances for this property and that it's serviced by public water.
- Mr. Smith asks Ms. Freer about whether the 6-inch effluent filter is required and Ms. Freer, responds, yes, the 6-inch effluent filter is required for any new septic systems.

Mr. Smith moves to approve the plans as presented. Mr. West seconds.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

February 2020

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

Ms. Freer: *March 2020 Summary of Monthly Report*

- The Water Street Mercantile ('the Merc') hosted a fundraising event from March 12 –March 15. The Merc hopes to become a permanent establishment, serving coffee, tea and pastries. Pastries will be prepared at nearby cafés and sold at The Merc. This will require a food license as well as installation of proper sanitation measures and equipment.
- 6 septic alteration applications were submitted.

- 3 septic repair applications were submitted. All three repairs have been completed and inspected.

Mr. Weber: Below: based on original emailed question (*I would appreciate hearing a report on mortality rate and also on reported cases that have since been resolved with positive outcome and the capacity (space, equipment and staffing) of local hospitals to accommodate the cases as they have come in and what impact that is having on capacity for other normal hospital functions*)

- Mr. Weber asks, in March, when we encountered the COVID-19 problems and as they evolved, are there any specific issues for the Township of Mendham that the County had to address at that time?
- Ms. Freer explains that with Mendham Township, the numbers have been relatively low and that there is evidence that demonstrates that residents are paying attention to social distancing rules and guidelines.
- Ms. Freer states that in mid-March the County was inundated with phone calls and to help with that, the County initiated their Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, school nurses and retired nurses as well as its own, two employed nurses, to field phone calls and answer medical questions.
- Mr. Weber asks Ms. Freer, is the County equipped with equipment and supplies to interact with the community safely? Ms. Freer explains that the County reached out to their County health officers for extra PPE to donate. PPE that was donated to the County was distributed to County employees, Morris County Office of Emergency Management to disperse throughout the County, particularly for the COVID Testing site. PPE was also dropped off at Morristown Memorial Hospital.
- Dr. Goswami asks if there's an essential group in Morris County that's managing the COVID testing site? Ms. Freer explains that Morris County and the County's Office of Emergency Management and Atlantic Health Care are all working together. Morris County supplies volunteers. COVID-19 results come back to the County and results are faxed to doctors and then entered into CDR – the Communicable Disease Reporting system. The hope is to begin contact tracing. The goal is building a team of medical professionals, willing to donate their time to assist with contact tracing.
- Ms. Reale inquires about individuals who have asymptomatic symptoms, but want to know if they were exposed (positive) to COVID-19. Ms. Freer explains that there is the antibodies blood test for people who think that they have been exposed, but never had any symptoms of COVID-19, however, the results aren't 100% accurate and may pick up other strains of corona. The County is not doing the antibody testing right now.
- Mr. Weber asks, if someone believes they have COVID-19, can they be tested? Ms. Freer says, yes, at the CCM testing site, individuals must have a prescription from their doctor. Not all sites require a prescription, however.
- Mr. Weber on understanding the numbers in the system associated with COVID-19 and how they are interpreted. Ms. Freer explains that the system is for confirmed cases, but that death and/or recovery numbers are not known.
- Dr. Goswami asks, are all county websites updated with COVID-19 data? Ms. Freer says, yes, county sites are updated regularly and specifically; the Morris County site is updated once a day.

- Mr. Weber states that if there's anything that the Mendham Township Board of Health can or should be doing to assist the County during this time, to please reach out or let the BOH know.
- Ms. Freer mentions that Mayor Neibart has a weekly phone call with the Township Committee, to provide updates on COVID-19. A member of the BOH could be beneficial in joining in on this conversation.
- Dr. Goswami inquires about COVID-19 testing and residents – if a resident asks about testing, where should they be directed? Ms. Freer explains that residents can visit the Morris County website and direct themselves through prompts; residents can also reach out, directly, to the County offices for testing information.
- Ms. Freer and the County offices appreciate the support of the Board of Health. If the BOH know of any volunteers that would like to help out with the Medical Reserve Corps, inquiries can be directed to Ms. Freer, who is the volunteer coordinator for the MRC.

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

Dr. Goswami asks if there has been any follow up regarding the letter to the Township Committee? Given the circumstances surrounding the Pandemic and the departure of the town administrator, Ms. Bonnano, the business of the letter to the Township has been halted.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32 pm