

BOARD OF HEALTH – TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 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 Kenneth West*

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF April 27, 2020 MINUTES

Mr. Smith moves to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. West seconds the motion.

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

BUSINESS:

BLOCK 100 LOT 61.03 - APPLICANT: MICHAEL CANNAVO, 74 ROXITICUS ROAD, YANNACCONE, VILLA AND ALDRICH ENGINEERING, LLC
APPLICATION: NEW SEPTIC CONSTRUCTION

- Representative of the engineering firm is unable to connect via Zoom.
- Mr. West suggests that because there is no legal requirement that they (the engineering firm) show up, that the meeting moves forward without the representation, and if there are questions of the project, we will make an effort to reach out.
- Mr. Smith points out that the proposed disposal field is 10 ft. from the property line but 20 ft. from the edge of the property.
- Mr. West states that he agrees with Mr. Smith and that the corner of the field from the right of way of the road is at least 15 ft. and so there is no issue.
- Mr. Weber would like the 850 gallons per day to be changed to 800 gallons per day.

- Ms. Freer will call Mr. Yannaccone and request that the change is made from 850 gallons per day to 800 gallons per day.
- Mr. West states that if there aren't any questions or comments, that we move to approve the plans with the correction of the 850 gallons per day to 800 gallons per day. Mr. Weber seconds the motion.

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

**BLOCK 127 LOT 50 - APPLICANT: TOM VEMAN (FLIP BROTHERS), 65 WOODLAND ROAD, STEWART SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING, LLC
APPLICATION: NEW SEPTIC CONSTRUCTION (EXISTING STRUCTURE) & EXPANSION**

- Mr. Fred Stewart of Stewart Surveying & Engineering is the representative for the septic design plans. Tom Veman, owner and applicant is also acting as a representative for the septic expansion project.
- Mr. West states that based on Ms. Freer and Mr. Korshalla's notes there are no issues except that there are no architectural drawings that have been submitted to Maser Engineering and that architectural drawings are required when a home expansion is involved.
- Mr. Stewart states that they will gladly supply the architectural drawings. Mr. Stewart explains that this is an existing 3 bedroom home that is being expanded to 5 bedrooms.
- Mr. West states that knowing that the drawings are forthcoming we can move forward with the proceedings, however, we cannot give the final approval until architectural plans are submitted.
- Mr. Smith confirms that this home was an existing home that is being renovated.
- Mr. Stewart says, yes, it's currently being renovated.
- Mr. West asks if the Board has any questions of the applicant.
- Mr. Weber asks if the well needs to be 150 ft. away. Jessica responds that it needs to be 100 ft. away.

Mr. West motions that the plans are approved pending submission of the architectural drawings and also that Mr. Korshalla approves the expansion to 5 bedrooms. The approval for this project will not take effect until both of those measures are finalized. Mr. Weber seconds the motion.

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

- Addressing further questions, Mr. Stewart confirms that they are using an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU) with pressure dosing. Jessica states that this is correct for this advanced treatment system.
- Mr. West states that the motion still stands with the pending submission of the architectural drawings and the approved expansion of the home.

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

**BLOCK 127 LOT 150 – APPLICANT: DOUGLASS GREENBERGER, 18 WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD, H2M ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
APPLICATION: NEW SEPTIC CONSTRUCTION (EXISTING STRUCTURE) EXPANSION**

- Mr. Greenberger, homeowner of 18 Washington Valley Road explains that the property was purchased with an existing cesspool with the agreement that a septic system would be installed.
- Mr. West states that Mr. Korshalla has not yet received architectural drawings.
- Mr. Greenberger says, that they are not expanding the home. A little extra capacity was added so that in the future if an expansion was contemplated or applied for, that it could work.
- Mr. West asks how many bedrooms are in the existing house? Mr. Greenberger states, 3 bedrooms.
- Mr. West explains that if the owner ever decides to expand the home that the project would require revisiting the Board of Health with architectural drawings and if rules have changed in the meantime, a reapplication may be in order.
- Mr. West asks if the Board has any questions regarding the letters from Ms. Freer and Mr. Korshalla. There are no questions from the Board.
- Mr. West states that the well is in good distance from the septic.
- Mr. West moves to approve the project as submitted. Mr. Weber seconds the motion.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

April 2020, May 2020

Reviewed by Ms. Freer. This is a verbal report; there are no hard copies for April & May.

Ms. Freer: April 2020 Summary of Monthly Report

- 4 septic repair applications were submitted, reviewed and approved.
- 95 Ironia Road had a revision to previous plans submitted in March. The Pressure dosing size was adjusted and approved.
- 5 Franklin Road and 3 Samuel Farm Drive applications were reviewed before the Board in April.

Ms. Freer: May 2020 Summary of Monthly Report

- 2 septic repair applications were submitted, reviewed and approved.
- 2 septic alteration applications were submitted, reviewed and approved.
- 1 soil log test was completed.

- Mr. Weber asks if the Board will receive the standard health reports as have been given traditionally? Jessica replies, that the standard health reports between March and May will not be available and that the County will resume with traditional reports in June.
- Dr. Goswami asks, in terms of the COVID-19 testing centers, will those remain open in anticipation of a second wave?

- Ms. Freer explains that the CCM COVID-19 testing site is scheduled to close on Friday, May 1, 2020. When the site first opened, they were seeing over 200 appointments per day and half of those cases were positive. The CCM testing site is now seeing about 40 appointments per day.
- Ms. Freer continues to explain that the site is no longer requiring prescriptions, however, the problem is that those who do not have a prescription, generally do not have a doctor.
- Working with the County OEM, it was determined that the County public health nurses would take on these cases, where the patient was without a doctor – the nurses would follow up with positive COVID-19 cases and begin the steps for contact tracing.
- Jessica states that when they stopped taking prescriptions, their numbers for testing jumped up again to 200 appointments per day, but that the positive rate was less than 1%. Motorists would see the CCM COVID-19 testing center sign while driving by and decide to get tested. Healthcare workers were getting tested so that they could get back to work.
- The County was footing the bill for all of the drive thru testing and with all of the available testing that there is now, they decided it was best that they close. If there is a COVID-19 resurgence, the County would be more than willing to set up testing again.
- Mr. Weber would like to know if there's an update on positive cases in Mendham. Ms. Freer notes that Mendham Township has been at 39 COVID-19 positive cases and that no deaths have been reported to the County.
- Dr. Goswami: Below: based on an original emailed question (*Would ask for a reality check from the County on risk of resurgence of infections and our preparedness therein. I get the sense that there is confusion on how much social distancing, wearing of masks is still required now that the state is sort of opening up. Seeing some of the activity in Morristown suggests that some people are ignoring precautions altogether*)
- Ms. Freer addresses the emailed question and the possibility of a second wave by stating that, the County's goal is to use public health prevention messaging as much as they can – they are working to push messages, reminding people that it's still important to wear masks. The County is hoping to release a PSA on cable television and to work with social media outlets as much as possible. Ms. Freer goes on to explain that the County is providing signs to businesses, food establishments and pools regarding COVID-19 and safety measures. Brookside Beach has signs posted and has hired a social distance manager to further reinforce social distance rules while at the beach and while utilizing the playground equipment that's on the beach property.
- Ms. Freer states that, additionally, the County is preparing for the possibility of re-infection as there is uncertainty about whether or not people can be re-infected. The state did send out a memo to physicians asking if they've treated patients with COVID-19 and have those same patients come back with COVID-19? This is being done in an effort to understand reinfection.
- Dr. Goswami asks of the Board, has a statement been coordinated with the Mayor?

- Mr. West states, no, and that he is not aware that the Board of Health has been in contact with the Mayor with regards to a statement. Mr. West says that perhaps the BOH be more proactive with messaging through the town website or posted signs in town.
- Mr. Weber agrees and states that it would be good for the BOH to have something on our town site that directs visitors to the BOH and that messaging reinforces these points (social distancing, mask wearing).
- Ms. Freer explains, again, that messaging is the most important asset at this time (in spreading prevention awareness) and offers to come up with some messaging.
- Mr. Smith says that he is fine with Ms. Freer writing the message – a standard messaging across the board from municipality to municipality.
- Dr. Goswami suggests that proper disposal of PPE be included in the messaging.
- Ms. Reale asks Ms. Freer how the County is doing with contact tracing? Ms. Freer explains that they are doing okay; that their cases have slowed down exponentially, but that a spike in cases is likely, with the reopening of businesses and food establishments.
- Ms. Freer states that she will reach out to the County health educator this week, and asks the Board, in what capacity would they like messaging – pdf. for website, same pdf. to email/social media, letter or signage?
- Mr. Weber suggests a banner on our BOH page, stating that, ‘The Township BOH encourages you to please continue appropriate social distancing and other safety measures.’ Mr. Weber would like our community to know that the BOH is actively participating in an effort to keep this (COVID/guidelines) front of mind for residents.
- Dr. Goswami suggests that the weekly memos that come from Mayor Neibart might be a good place to include BOH messaging.
- Mr. West asks about signage at the bridge in Brookside or lawn signs on residential property, and states that this is an opportunity to keep people on their toes – especially those that do not always check emails or visit the township’s website. Mr. West asks if the County can provide signage?
- Ms. Freer explains that they do not have signage right now and that they’re working to get billboards and signs given that messaging is their biggest push in prevention.
- Ms. Freer is going to speak with Stephanie Gorman, who will likely be in touch via email in order to get the messaging out as soon as possible.
- Mr. West asks that the messaging be sent to Ms. Parrinello, who will then share emails with the Board.
- Mr. West states that he does not believe that there are legal issues with approving the verbal health reports and asks for legal counsel.
- Mr. Graves says that there is a record of the minutes, to be memorialized in writing and that the verbal health reports can be approved.
- Mr. West moves that we accept Ms. Freer’s verbal reports for April and May. 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

- Mr. West asks for general correspondence or questions.
- Ms. Reals asks if there has been any follow up regarding the letter to the Township Committee?
- Mr. West says, no and perhaps because of the timing and that it might not be of highest concern right now. The Board can continue to keep things rolling.
- Mr. West thanks, Mr. John Graves, the BOH attorney for the evening.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:19 PM