

Minutes from the June 16, 2022 Stockbridge Board of health meeting

In attendance: chair Dr Charles Kenny, Dr Harry Schwerner, Dr John Loiodice

From Tri-Town Health Department: James J. Wilusz, Executive Director

CK called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Pursuant to the open meeting law the meeting was in a remote zoom form and recorded by Tri-Town. A recording will be sent to CTSB.

The minutes of the previous meeting August 30, 2021 were read and approved.

CK introduced newest member to the board John Loiodice and thanked outgoing member Rae Williams for her services. Nominations for the Board of Health; Dr. Kenny was unanimously elected to be the chairman of the board of health. Dr. John Loiodice was nominated for secretary

Agenda item #1: Public hearing Request for a well variance request under Title 5, by Michael and Rebecca Bellora residing at 38 Lake drive. CK asked that hearing be suspended until White Engineering could present to the board a short overview of the project and the request for variance to an abutter well setback.

Presenter Brent White is proposing an upgraded, innovative alternative septic system to the single-family dwelling sitting on a quarter acre, which is presently served by a "tight tank" the house is be reconstructed but the number of bedrooms at 3, will remain the same. The building permit is presently in front of the conservation committee and the select board because it's a preexisting, non-conforming structure on a preexisting non-conforming lot. The proposed system will be within 100 feet of the occupants well and within 100 feet of the neighbors as well. Given the size of the lot and the location adjacent and close to neighbor's proposal was made for an innovative and alternative technology systems. This has been used at close quarters like Lake drive with great success and is approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. This uses two technologies. The first is known as the jet bat pre-treatment tank which uses an aerator to better treat the waste matter. The second portion of the treatment is a leachfield which uses the innovative percolate drip irrigation system driven by a pump as opposed to the conventional gravity fed system. This allows for a much smaller leachfield. The conditions of this variants are that the owner signs a two-year maintenance agreement and subsequent inspections which will be submitted to Tritown.

CK asked if the neighbor has been contacted or have we received any concerns given his wells proximity to the proposed system. Tri- town has not received any increase and a certified letter from White engineering has gone to the neighbor explaining and asking for any concerns.

HS also asked if the abutter has been notified to which White answered yes several times, and will be again when another public hearing is held by the planning board and by the select board.

JW reminded all that given the lack of municipal sewers in this location, these septic systems are ideal as they act like mini treatment stations especially given the proximity to the Bowl.

CK reopened the Public hearing for public input and which there was none.

JL asked what specific testing will be done after system in place, to which JW answered that DEP will test for coliforms from the wells in question for two years.

HS reminded all that he wished that the sewer expansion was done sooner than later along Lake Drive which all agree is preferable.

CK reiterated that this project seems to deal with the concerns of protecting his well, the neighbors well, the adjacent wet lands and the Stockbridge bowl.

A motion was made to close the hearing, seconded and voted unanimously ,to approve the variance.

Tri-Town Health Department updates: JW reminded the audience that Community Forum in association with Austen Riggs will present: "Grappling with Covid-19 what can we learn from our experiences during the pandemic?" on July 9 at the outdoor shrine of Marian Fathers. All are invited to discuss the psychosocial effects of the pandemic.

JW also touched on the decreasing rate of Covid infections in Southern Berkshire, though still in the Yellow which means masking is still recommended not required. This especially important as more at home testing is available placing the responsibility on the individual, to make the right decision. This is important especially if one has a positive result, which its recommended they isolate for 5 days.

Also reminded us that Tri-Town is an official vaccine provider including flu vaccine in the Fall as well as boosters.

Summer camps are here which will make for a busy time including routine health inspections.

A Motion was made to adjourn which was seconded and meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Minutes provided by: John Loiodice, MD