



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH

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The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held May 11, 2010.

MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 13, 2010

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Paul McKeon, Chairman. Other members present were Mr. Scott Chase and Mr. Steve Garabedian. Mr. Chris Cella and Ms. Ann Marie Thompson were absent. Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Chase to accept the minutes of **March 23, 2010**. Motion seconded by Mr. McKeon; the vote was 2-0 in favor; Mr. Garabedian abstained.

Quaker Street, 1790 – Garden Center Proposal: Present for this meeting was Gregory Trussell who bought the 1790 Quaker Street property at auction noting that he has placed a deposit but has not yet closed on the purchase.

Mr. Trussell stated that he owns and operates Hartford Farms in Upton. He is proposing to run the same type of business at 1790 Quaker Street seeking approval for the construction of a dug shallow well or an irrigation pond. He stated that his operation in Upton utilizes a shallow well with 4 spigots to water the plants.

Mr. Trussell further stated that the building has a composting toilet and that his letter to the Board of Health states that he will not use the composting toilet and that he will have a port-a-john for use by his employees only. He asked that the letter be amended to indicate that he will not necessarily use the composting toilet and that he may have a port-a-john on the premises for employee use.

The Board discussed whether dug wells were allowed under their well regulations. They noted that the regulations state that no person shall drill, dig, or otherwise develop any new well without obtaining a permit and that no person in the business of digging or drilling shall construct a well unless registered with the Department of Environmental Management. The Board further noted that the regulations require that water from a well must meet the same requirements as a drinking water well.

Mr. McKeon stated that he would like the applicant to apply for percolation and soils evaluation testing noting that there are several new alternative technologies available now and that under these new technologies a septic system design may be approved. Mr. Trussell stated that he did not want to do that right now but would consider it in the future.

The Board discussed whether the continued use of this structure without potable water and without a sewage disposal system could be allowed.

Mr. Chase motioned to have Malley Engineering review this proposal and to provide comments to the Board with regard to the operation of a retail garden center without a subsurface sewage disposal system as well as the proposal to dig a shallow well at this location for irrigation purposes only. Motion seconded by Mr. Garabedian; the vote was 3-0 in favor. The matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Health Inspector / Inspector of Animals Position: Mr. McKeon informed the Board that the Northbridge Board of Selectmen at their meeting on April 12, 2010, voted to affirm the appointment of James Gosselin for the Health Inspector position. The Selectmen also affirmed the recommendation of Mr. Gosselin for the Inspector of Animals position which has been sent to the Department of Agriculture for their affirmation.

Health Regulations – Review of Proposed Amendments: The Board discussed holding a separate workshop to review amendments to their regulations. A workshop will be scheduled at their next meeting.

Quaker Street Landfill: Mr. McKeon informed the Board that the SW-22 Application for reduced monitoring at the Quaker Street landfill has been completed by BETA Group and was mailed to the Department of Environmental Protection today.

Old & New Business: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the **April 3rd Rabies Vaccination clinic** was a huge success with 154 cats and dogs getting vaccinated.

Citizens Forum: Present for Citizens Forum was **Gary Vecchione** who is in the process of purchasing **845 Hill Street**. He stated that the plans on file for the repair of the septic system were not good and wanted to know what alternative systems the Board would like to approve. The Board informed Mr. Vecchione that all systems approved by the DEP will be considered. Mr. Vecchione requested time on the agenda of the next meeting to discuss this matter.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was distributed to the Board:

- Whitinsville Water Company – **Lead in Water: Balmer School** – the Board reviewed the letter from the Whitinsville Water Company regarding two samples taken at the Balmer School indicating elevated levels of lead in the drinking water. Mr. McKeon stated that he would like to have more information regarding this, specifically the time of day that the samples were taken noting that if these samples were taken first thing in the morning that there may be elevated lead levels because the water has been sitting in the pipes overnight so a simple “flushing” of the system may be enough to address this issue. The Board asked that a letter to the Water Company be sent requesting additional information on the sampling procedures used as well as any corrective actions that are being considered. The Board asked that the letter be copied to the Town Manager and to Paul Halacy, Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Northbridge School system.
- Laflamme – 1078 Providence Road – Sewer Back Up
- Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM was made by Mr. Garabedian and seconded by Mr. Chase – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrative Assistant