



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

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*The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held April 13, 2010.*

## MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 23, 2010

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

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Thompson to accept the minutes of **March 9, 2010** and **March 16, 2010**. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was all in favor.

**1961 Quaker Street – Application for Permit to Stable:** Present for this meeting were Christine Taylor, applicant, and Ron Roux.

Mr. McKeon asked the Board if they had an opportunity to read the recent email from Town Counsel which provides the Board with their opinion that while the Board can consider leased land as part of the one-acre requirement, they also have the discretion to make a determination that such an arrangement is NOT appropriate based on their belief that the intent of the regulations respecting residential areas and the appropriateness of stabling a horse in a thickly settled residential area does not comply with the spirit of the regulations. Town Counsel's opinion included additional concerns regarding the enforcement and oversight by the Board of Health of a lease arrangement.

The Board noted that the lease option was taken under consideration due to the fact that Ms. Taylor's lot is significantly less than the one-acre lot size required by health regulations. Ms. Taylor's lot consists of 25,745 square feet – one acre would be the equivalent of 43,560 square feet. The Board also noted concerns based on their site inspection of March 16, 2010 that the well is located 65-feet from the building where the horse will be stabled – health regulations require a distance of 100-feet. Mr. McKeon asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Chase asked if Ms. Taylor brought a copy of the proposed lease agreement. Ms. Taylor stated that she had not as Mr. Ragazzo's attorney was still reviewing it. Ms. Thompson stated that her questions were answered at the site visit the Board held last week. Mr. Cella stated that he would have liked to have seen the proposed lease commenting that the Board had requested this on several occasions.

Mr. McKeon asked the Board who was in favor of this. Ms. Thompson stated that she was but her approval would be contingent upon a thorough review of the lease agreement. Mr. Cella and Mr. Chase stated that they were not in favor. Mr. Cella stated that he did not believe that the intent of the regulations governing stabling of horses was to allow horses in residential areas – that the one acre requirement limited the possibility of this being a nuisance to abutters because the one acre provided a necessary buffer between properties. Mr. McKeon agreed with Mr. Cella citing that he felt the one-acre requirement was to keep horses out of congested residential areas. Mr. Chase agreed.

**Motion to deny application to stable one horse at 1961 Quaker Street was made by Mr. Chase based on all considerations stated above. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was 3-1 in favor of the denial; Ms. Thompson voted against this motion.**

Ms. Taylor asked under what conditions she would be allowed to have a horse. The Board informed her that if she owned the one-acre lot size requirement, then the Board, under their current regulations, would be able to approve her application as long as all required setbacks could be met.

**Inspector of Animals Position:** James Gosselin, applicant for the Inspector of Animals position, was present to meet with the Board to review his application and qualifications for this position.

**Mr. Cella motioned to recommend to the Town Manager, the appointing authority, that Mr. Gosselin be selected to fill the vacant Inspector of Animals position. Motion seconded by Ms. Thompson; the vote was all in favor.**

**Health Inspector Position:** Ms. Gniadek provided the Board with a brief overview of the candidates for the part-time health inspector position and comments from her interview with each. She indicated her concerns with two of the four candidates her fear that they could turn a two-hour inspection into much more than that. She further pointed out that their wage expectations were much higher than the Board of Health budget allows.

A third candidate with all of the qualifications was deemed by Mr. McKeon to be overly-qualified and he feared that she would not last long. Mr. McKeon recommended that the Board appoint Mr. James Gosselin to this position. Mr. Chase and Ms. Thompson agreed. Ms. Gniadek expressed her concern that this applicant was not qualified as he had no related experience with the duties of this position. Mr. McKeon stated that it is not rocket science. Ms. Gniadek stated that if the Board selects Mr. Gosselin as their candidate for approval by the Town Manager then it should be on a probationary period and at a rate less than the \$30 per hour budgeted so that the candidate will have an incentive to learn the regulations that he will be required to enforce.

**Motion made by Mr. Chase to recommend to the Town Manager the appointment of Mr. James Gosselin to the position of Health Inspector at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for a 6-month probationary period. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was all in favor.**

**Old & New Business:** Ms. Gniadek re-distributed to the Board proposed amendments to the Board of Health regulations and requested that these be reviewed for the next meeting so that the comprehensive review and re-write of these regulations can be completed.

**Correspondence:** The following correspondence was distributed to the Board:

- Central Mass Mosquito Control Program – notice of larval control program
- Brian's Restaurant – Food Service Inspection Report – Certificate of Merit Award

*There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM was made by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Chase – all in favor.*

Attested by,

*Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrative Assistant*