

Board of Health Minutes

May 27, 2021

Town of Auburn
Board of Health
Town Hall Selectmen
Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

Members Present : Eric Otterson, Chairman; Carolyn Griffin, Vice Chair; Lindsay Guittarr, member
In Attendance: Darlene Coyle, Director of Public Health; Jordan Brusco, Health Inspector; Paula Conway DDIS Clerk

Board of Health - Thursday May 27, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Remote Meeting Participation

Join by phone: 1-224-501-3412

Access Code: 236-529-341

Join by Computer: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/236529341>

Chairman Eric Otterson in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

1. **Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.**
2. **Review Agenda - Add/Remove any items - no changes**
3. **Approval of Minutes - 4/22/2021**

6:00 Hearings- Septic Local Upgrade Approval Request- 19 Drake Court

310 CMR 15.405 (1) (g); (2)-Offset distance of 75 feet from existing abutter's well to proposed sewage disposal system, 100 feet required

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to open the hearing.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to open the hearing for the LUA request & the variance for 19 Drake Ct.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr Vote 3-0

Eric requests that all present for the hearing to speak and say here.

Seth Lajoie representing Gilmore DaSilva, Allison Buckley and Francis Buckley all acknowledge their presence. James Buckley was unable to attend he is in the hospital.

Darlene Coyle explains we are here for a Septic Local Upgrade Approval Request for 19 Drake Court, the proposed septic system repair for this property. As part of the LUA request there is a well on an abutting the property at 21 Drake Ct. and setback distance is 75ft from proposed soil absorption system, and does not meet the 100 ft. setback that is required by DEP. The abutters needed to be notified by certified mail to be aware of well setback as part of the septic system upgrade; this allows the abutter to have input on the setback reduction to their well. For the septic system, in addition to this request, they do have a system design that does not meet the local board of health regulation that requires design plus one and as part of that the square footage of the property, it does not allow for the extra design. So we have a variance request to the Auburn Board of Health Regulation to allow for the design of the system for actual number of bedrooms. She states that the owners and the abutters are present if the Board should have any questions.

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Eric Otterson ask the abutter Francis Buckley if she had any concerns as an abutter to the septic system design being proposed, and if all her questions were answered by the engineer.

Francis Buckley states she has no concerns and is very comfortable with the plan.

Seth Lajoie engineer, for the 19 Drake Ct. septic system states he has no questions, but would like to put on the table we should not be here tonight, that this permit has taken 265 days to review. The pandemic should not be a reason for the Board of Health not to do their duties.

Eric Otterson stated, I am going to stop you and rule you out of order in regards to your accusations. He asks Mr. Lajoie if he has anything to add regarding the requests or the plan before us, that we are not here for him to discredit the Board of Health. Mr. Lajoie states he has nothing further.

Darlene adds that the owner and the abutter are both present and that was our main responsibility due to the type of request, since it is a setback distance not to the owner's well but to the abutter's well. This is reason why we wanted to make sure we had the hearing to give the abutter a chance to comment on the request affecting their well.

Carolyn asked Darlene if this request has been seen in the past.

Darlene explains the LUA request is allowed by Title V and is something that has to go through the Board process. Because it effects the abutter, it give them a chance to provide input as to whether or not they are comfortable with the setback distance.

Eric Otterson entertain s a motion to approve the request.

Carolyn Griffin make a motion to approve the Septic LUA request for 19 Drake Ct as requested.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote- 3-0

Darlene would also request that the Board to include the local variance request for the septic design.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to approve the v ariance design request that is part of the LUA request for 19 Drake Ct.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote- 3-0

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes for April 22, 2021.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote: 3-0

6:20pm CMRPC Shared Service Grant Application

Darlene would like to let the Board know through the pandemic we have been working closely with CMRPC, the planning agency in Worcester, MA. Through that process many Boards of Health, approximately a dozen or so have leaned on each other to share the good & bad of what has happened during the pandemic. We are trying to find ways to handle different challenges that have come up and to help navigate through something we haven't experienced before. More recently, the State had put out an application for a Grant that would allow for shared services. CMRPC applied for this grant, which is a competitive process throughout the state. This grant would be awarded for several towns on this application. CMRPC helps coordinate our group of interested towns such as Auburn, Oxford, Dudley, Webster, Wales, Brimfield, and Southbridge. Webster has agreed to be the hub/host to administrate the grant along with CMRPC guidance, they are looking to figure out two positions that would assist these towns involved. Assistance may come in the form of inspections, health education and promotion of

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programs. It is our hope that that may help be able to get back to a normal to what we need to be doing for our community. This grant has been approved however the documents I sent out in your packets are a work in progress they still need to go through review process and modifications as everyone has input. We are hopeful this will help and would need the Board to identify if this is something they would like us to move forward with.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion that the Board is comfortable with what was presented and for the Director to move forward with this process.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion that the Board is very comfortable with moving forward with the CMRPC Grant.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote: 3-0

A. Director's update

a) Correspondence

b) Septic, Well, Housing -No update

c) Animal Control - Just a reminder to pay for dog license before late fees apply.

d) Tobacco Control- No update

e) Solid Waste- This is the last week of yard waste pick-up.

f) Central Mass Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) - This is the time of year CMMCP accept spray requests and requests to opt out for treatment, by contacting CMMCP and their phone number is on our town website.

g) Emergency Preparedness - We are heading into a transition with the pandemic with the Governor's recent announcement for COVID orders changing and being relaxed by May 29th and the end of the State emergency on June 15th. We are happy to see some positive movement in this direction hoping it is going to continue. This does not mean we will not see some more cases but we have seen a decrease in our case counts from last fall & winter months.

B. Communicable Diseases

Reviewed by the Board

Inspections & Events- COVID 19 Emergency Action Response- Update

Carolyn Griffin asked if the Rec Department would be starting outdoor events. Darlene states they had a meeting with the Town Manager, Rec Director, and DPW, to figure out what will happen next. Some town sponsored events have already taken place. The basketball hoops will be put back up today by DPW.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to close the hearing .

Motion: Carolyn Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm

Second: Lindsey Guittarr

Vote: All in favor 3-0

APPROVED ON 8/17/21