

Board of Health Minutes
Monday, March 8 2021 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA

The Board of Health participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Call to Order: Susan Hubbard called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Members attending: Susan C. Hubbard, Dr. Susan Boreri and Amanda Donovan were in attendance.

Others in attendance: Colleen Fermon, Director of Public Health, Jennifer Brown, Health Administrative Assistant, Hugh L. Graham, P.E. and David Updike.

Citizens Queries: None.

Minutes: Dr. Boreri made a motion to approve the February 1, 2020 minutes as written. Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearings:

5:32 – David Updike – 66 Labor-In-Vain Road – Garage and Apartment – Represented by H.L. Graham Associates, Inc. – Septic System Design Variances

Hugh L. Graham, P.E., and David Updike presented, and a hearing was conducted to consider variances from Title 5 and Ipswich Board of Health Septic System regulations for a sewage disposal system plan # 20-2046 designed by Hugh L. Graham, P.E., dated December 14, 2020 and revised February 25, 2021 for the 1 bedroom dwelling located at 66 Labor-In-Vain Road, Ipswich, Massachusetts.

Previously, at the February 1, 2021 meeting, Hugh Graham, of H.L. Graham Associates, Inc. said the property would be divided but the well currently serving the main house, cottage and garage dwelling would continue to serve the 1 bedroom dwelling. In accordance with Ipswich Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells, each private well shall be located on the same lot as the building it serves and therefore the existing well could not be used as a water supply, if the lot is divided as planned unless a variance is obtained. It was the decision of the Board of Health to continue the discussion to allow time for a water supply plan to be confirmed. The Board of Health said they would continue the variance discussion at the March 8, 2021 meeting. The septic system design plan would need to be revised to show the proposed water supply and be submitted for approval before the March meeting.

At the March 8, 2021 meeting, Mr. Graham explained that two (2) sources of water are still being considered. Town water is reflected on the proposed sewage disposal system plan. He explained that the owner would prefer to utilize a new well rather than town water since it is more financially feasible. Mr. Graham noted that if the well location is pursued, the sewage design plans would be revised and submitted for approval and an Application for a Private Well Construction Permit would be filed with the Public Health Department.

Mr. Updike clarified he is currently exploring possible sites for the proposed well. One option is to site a well off the corner of the tennis court. Another possibility is to site one 20 feet from the barn.

Susan Hubbard asked Colleen Fermon for her thoughts. Ms. Fermon said the purpose of the hearing was to discuss variances for the sewage disposal system plan that shows town water. The plan can be reviewed based on town water for now. If the water supply changes, the plan would need to be resubmitted to show a well. Additionally, the property was divided and one property transferred last week. Legal boundaries are now in question.

She asked the owner if he still has access to the well.

Mr. Updike reported that access to the well was removed as a condition of the sale of the property. The dwelling is not occupied.

Ms. Fermon noted that the property must remain vacant until there is a potable water supply serving the dwelling.

Ms. Fermon recommended reviewing the variance requests with the stipulation that the plan would not be approved until the septic system plan is revised to reflect the legal boundaries now that the facility has been divided. Mr. Updike can continue to pursue a well to see if one can be approved.

Mr. Graham requested the following variances:

- A reduction in the separation between the septic tank and pump chamber inlet and outlet inverts and Estimated Seasonal High Groundwater (ESHGW). The inverts will be 7 inches above groundwater and the outlet inverts will be 2 inches below groundwater; respectively.
- A reduction in the 150-foot setback between the septic system components and the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The septic tank and pump chamber are 131 feet and 141 feet from the ACEC and the building sewer is 120 feet from the ACEC, respectively,

Dr. Boreri made a motion to grant the variances as requested with the following conditions:

- The ANR plan must be recorded and a copy provided to the Public Health Office.
- The septic system plan must be revised to reflect the legal boundaries now that the facility has been divided. Approval must be obtained for this revised plan prior to the issuance of the Disposal System Construction Permit.
- Conservation Commission approval must be granted prior to the issuance of the Disposal System Construction Permit.
- An Ipswich licensed installer must come to the Public Health Office prior to beginning the project to complete the application and submit a trench permit application signed by the owner and the \$50 trench permit fee. The installer will receive the disposal system construction permit, the trench permit and a signed copy of the approved plan.

Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted by the Board that, in accordance with 310 CMR 15.000, Title 5, if a property is divided, a Title 5 inspection is required for all systems on the property. To date, only 2 of the 3 systems have been inspected.

5:43 – Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control District – Best Management Practice Plan

The Board reviewed the 2021 Best Management Practice Plan for Ipswich as drafted by the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District. Colleen Fermon said that no changes were recommended for the 2021 plan. She noted that page #9 outlined control measures specific to Ipswich that were made in 2020.

Ms. Fermon asked the Board members if they wanted to make any changes to the 2021 Mosquito Control Best Management Practice Plan for Ipswich. The Board members were satisfied with the existing language. The Board of Health approved the Best Management Practice Plan as written.

5:47 - Director of Public Health Report:

COVID-19 Update:

Colleen Fermon said the Public Health Department has been very busy with COVID-19 cases but noted that currently the number of cases is trending down. Ipswich has had 630 confirmed COVID-19 cases since March 1, 2020. Currently we have 10 active cases, people under isolation. Ipswich has been categorized as Yellow for 5 weeks with a positivity rate of 2.5 last week.

Ms. Fermon said the Ipswich Schools have not seen in school transmission of COVID-19. She noted that sports, such as hockey and basketball, have been challenging in the control of the spread.

Massachusetts teachers will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine on March 11, 2021.

Vaccination Planning:

On February 5, 2021, the Town of Ipswich, in cooperation with Conley's Drug Store, conducted a Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic for Ipswich residents 75 years of age and older at Our Lady of Hope Church. 500 vaccinations were provided. A clinic providing the second dose for Ipswich residents 75 years of age and older and first doses for Ipswich residents 65 years of age and older or those with 2 or more comorbidities was held on February 19, 2021 at Our Lady of Hope Church, in cooperation with Conley's Drug Store. Over 1,000 vaccinations were provided.

The Public Health Department received 100 doses of the Moderna Vaccine. On February 18, 2021, Action Ambulance provided vaccinations to people who are more vulnerable and homebound. On February 19, 2021, the Public Health Department held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Council of Aging at Town Hall for Ipswich residents 65 and older or those with 2 or more comorbidities.

Second dose clinics will be held on March 19, 2021 at Our Lady of Hope Church and at the Council of Aging at Town Hall.

At this time no additional clinics are planned since local health departments are no longer able to get vaccine from the state.

Ms. Fermon noted that CVS in Ipswich was able to administer approximately 200 doses of COVID-19 vaccine per day.

Annual Report: The Annual Report for the Public Health Department is due on March 31, 2021. Ms. Fermon will share the report with the Board members once completed.

Next Board Meetings: The next meetings of the Board of Health were scheduled for and April 12, 2021, May 3, 2021, June 7, 2021, July 12, 2021 and August 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Adjourn: Amanda Donovan made the motion to adjourn at 6:01 PM. Susan Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Documents used at the March 8, 2021 Board of Health meeting:

- February 1, 2021 Minutes.
- Sewage disposal system design for 66 Labor-In-Vain Road (Garage Apartment).
- February 4, 2021 letter from Colleen Fermon regarding 66 Labor-In-Vain Road.
- 310 CMR 15.000, Title 5.
- Ipswich Board of Health Septic System Regulations.
- Best Management Practice Plan for 2021.

Susan C. Hubbard, Chairperson

Dr. Susan Boreri, Board Member

Amanda Donovan, Board Member