



**Meeting Minutes
Gloucester Board of Health
Septic Review Subcommittee
June 22, 2017
3 POND ROAD, GLOUCESTER, MA 01930
Annex Conference Room**

IN ATTENDANCE

Frederick Cowan, Subcommittee Chair; Joseph Rosa, Board of Health member; Rob Harris, Board of Health member; Thorsen Akerley, Health Department Sanitarian; Karin Caroll, Health Department Director; John Judd, Gateway Consultants; Daniel Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting; Larry Durkin, Water Compliance; Karen Wright, Water Compliance; Brad Robertson, All Seasons Septic Services

OPENING OF MEETING – 8:30 AM

SUBJECT

**368 Magnolia Avenue – Map 214, Lot 14
(Property owned by Lawrence and Shirley Haight - Represented by John Judd, Gateway Consultants)**

To discuss variances to Gloucester's onsite wastewater regulations to allow a leaching facility to be installed within 100 feet of a freshwater resource area (53 feet provided), and to allow a leaching facility to be installed within 20 feet of a foundation (14 feet provided). To discuss a local upgrade approval request to reduce the requirement of two deep holes per disposal area to one (310 CMR 15.405 (1)(k)), and an alternative design standard approval to reduce the required 4 feet of separation from the bottom of the leaching facility to groundwater to 2 feet (Standard conditions for secondary treatment units approved for remedial use, (II (5)(b))) with the use of an AES Presby system.

Discussion

Mr. Judd provides an overview of the property topography, proximity to the wetlands, and the variances that are being asked for.

Mr. Cowan asks if abutters were notified.

Mr. Judd confirms.

There is some general discussion amongst the board and Mr. Akerley confirms that this project is as close to maximum feasible compliance as possible.



Public Comment

None

MOTION: By **Mr. Harris** to approve the plan as designed, with the variances requested.

SECOND: By **Mr. Rosa**

All in favor – motion carries

SUBJECT

15 Waterman Road - Map 257, Lot 95

(Property owned by Dorothy Costello and Henry Davison - Represented by John Judd, Gateway Consultants)

To discuss a local upgrade approval request to situation a leaching facility within 100 feet of a potable well (90 feet provided) (310 CMR 15.405 (1)(g)).

Discussion

Mr. Judd provides an overview of the project and the variances requested.

Mr. Rosa says that the neighbor's well that is within 100 feet should be tested to confirm absence/presence of coliform bacteria/nitrogen at the owner of 15 Waterman's Road expense.

Public Comment

None

MOTION: By **Mr. Harris** to approve the plan as designed, with the local upgrade approval requested including requirement for 15 Waterman Road owner to offer to test 12 Waterman Road's water prior to construction of the replacement system.

SECOND: By **Mr. Rosa**

All in favor – motion carries

SUBJECT

25 Concord Street – Map 229, Lot 72

(Property owned by Enid Ricario and Wendy Quinones - Represented by Daniel Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting)

To discuss a variance to Gloucester's onsite wastewater regulations to allow a leaching facility and reserve leaching facility to be installed within 100 feet of a freshwater resource area for new construction (63 feet and 58 feet provided), (Gloucester's onsite wastewater regulations, Table 1).



Discussion

Mr. Ottenheimer provided an overview of the project and variances to Gloucester's Onsite Wastewater regulations that were requested.

Public Comment

None

MOTION: By **Mr. Harris** to approve the plan as designed, with the variances requested.

SECOND: By **Mr. Rosa**

All in favor – motion carries

SUBJECT

319 Concord Street – Map 240, Lot 2 & 3

(Property owned by Anthony Corrao - Represented by Daniel Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting)

To discuss variances to Gloucester's onsite wastewater regulations to allow septic tank to be installed within 100 feet of a coastal resource area (87 feet provided); to allow a Waterloo Biofilter to be installed within 100 feet of a coastal resource area (81 feet provided); and to allow a leaching facility to be installed within 200 feet of a coastal resource area (104 feet provided). To discuss local upgrade approval requests to reduce the separation distance from inlet and outlet tees to high groundwater elevation from 12" to 1" (310 CMR 15.405 (1)(j)) and to use a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test (310 CMR 15.405 (1) (i)). To discuss two alternative design standard approval requests to reduce the required 4 feet of separation from the bottom of the leaching facility to groundwater to 2 feet (Standard conditions for secondary treatment units approved for remedial use, (II (5)(b))), and to reduce the depth of naturally occurring pervious material from 4 feet to 2 feet (Standard conditions for secondary treatment units approved for remedial use, (II (5)(c))).

Discussion

Mr. Ottenheimer provides an overview of the project including variances and local upgrade approvals requested.

Mr. Rosa questions whether "idle" systems have trouble functioning after a period of dormancy.

Mr. Ottenheimer explains that systems can take a bit longer to begin functioning properly due to a lack of bacteria in a dormant system.

Public Comment

None



MOTION: By **Mr. Harris** to approve the plan as designed, with the variances requested.
SECOND: By **Mr. Rosa**

All in favor – motion carries

SUBJECT

Septage Hauler Discussion

Mr. Robertson, Owner of All Seasons Septic Services had been misrepresenting and reporting his documentation to the Gloucester Health Department and Wastewater Treatment Plants since at least 2013, including both the amounts pumped and addresses of homes/business he pumped out.

Discussion

Mr. Akerley explains the situation and how **Mr. Robertson** has been using reporting discrepancies to dump septage at the holding tank rate at the Gloucester wastewater treatment plant.

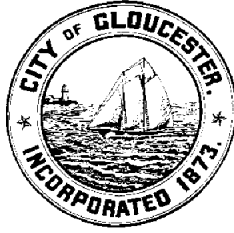
Ms. Wright and Mr. Durkin share their thoughts and provide further evidence showing the reporting discrepancies and possible reasons.

The Board asks questions to understand the situation and asks to hear **Mr. Robertson's** side.

Mr. Robertson agrees that he's been misrepresenting his reports, and owes the City of Gloucester money, but thinks that the number we were presenting may have been high due to a number of variables.

The Board determines that the suspension of All Seasons Septic Services license to haul nightsoil will continue at least until the following conditions are met:

1. A robust system is in place for tracking the amount and types of septic waste hauled from the point of pumping (customer) to the Waste Water treatment system, with accurate records of both to be provided to the Health Department and Water Compliance offices.
2. The financial and legal obligations to the City are resolved.
3. A template for a maintenance contract is drawn up and approved by the Health Department between Licensed Septage Haulers and their customers to ensure customers are not incorrectly charged. Septage Hauler's Contract to be similar to that of Operations and Maintenance contracts for alternative systems.



Mr. Cowan: Entertain a motion to Adjourn
Mr. Rosa: So moved
Mr. Harris: Second
Mr. Cowan: Meeting is adjourned

CLOSE OF MEETING – 10:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Thorsen Akerley

Date

Accepted by:

Frederick Cowan
Subcommittee Chair

Date