

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Monday, January 9, 2017  
Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Meeting Called to Order: 5:30 pm**

**Quorum Check:** Confirmed

**Members Present:** Linda Cocalis (LC), Chairman                      **Members Absent:** None  
Robert Audet (RA)  
Richard Volpe (RV)

**Others Present:** Jamie Terry (JT), Interim BOH Agent  
Cindy Sowa Forgit (CF), Interim BOH Administrative Assistant  
Applicants and/or Audience Members: Wendi Denning (WD), Seth LaJoie (SL), Dennis Santelli,  
Patrick Cannore, Peter Rafel, Russ Prentiss, Michael Suprenant, Jean Solaroli and Jimmy Hwong

**Approval of Minutes:** November 28, 2016: Motion to accept as written: LC ; 2<sup>nd</sup>: RA    Vote: 3-0  
November 28, 2016 Executive Session: Motion to accept as written: LC 2<sup>nd</sup>: RA    Vote: 3-0

**5:35pm Board Updates (LC):**

- Sara Kruczek, Emergency Planner – Met with Chair prior to this meeting to discuss BOH emergency contact list.

**5:45pm Public Hearing: 175 Podunk Road Lot 2 – Owner to develop one of three lots previously subdivided from a larger parcel.**

**Contractor Briefing:** Seth Lajoie, Seth L. Lajoie & Associates representing Ethan Hillman, owner.

- This lot was perc'd 12-1-15. Perc 2015-A had a rate of 29 MPI, Perc 2015-B had a rate of 20 MPI.
- Owner is requesting 2 variances to local Sturbridge regulations relating to Sewage Disposal Systems:
  - a variance request due a 29 mpi perc rate. Local Regulations currently allow no greater than a 20 min perc rate.
  - a variance request to size according to standard Title V regulation and not size 50% greater than required to protect from installation of a garbage grinder.

**Documents Submitted:**

- Septic Plan number 16-137-SDS dated 12-16-16 designed by Summit Engineering & Survey, Inc.

**Board comments, questions:**

- RA & RV. Discussion surrounding hardship given this lot represents new construction, concern over setting a precedence.
- JT recommended setting a timeline for BOH to review the local Town of Sturbridge Title V regulations. All agreed to discuss. Public Hearing to reconsider local Town of Sturbridge Sewage Disposal System regulations set for the end of March so to allow for advertising.
- SL withdrew this application.
- SL would like to be notified of the date and time of the public hearing.

**Audience comments, questions:**

- None.

**Motion: To accept the withdrawal of the application requesting two variances for 175 Podunk Road. (LC) 2<sup>nd</sup>: RA    Vote: 3-0. Vote: Unanimous.**

**6:00pm Public Hearing: Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main Street – Owner to discuss plan of action per recent food inspection violations.**

**Owner Briefing:** Sturbridge Host representatives discussed the following:

- Dennis Santelli, Food & Beverage Director: Previously from Sodexo, started with Host about 3 years ago. Has recently completed an overhaul of the Oxhead SOP's in maintaining public health and safety standards. He is now starting to train current staff on sanitizing regulations, temperature control methods, maintain routine (daily/weekly/monthly) cleaning equipment logs for floors, drawers, baffles/hoods. JT: Please be aware the BOH requires ice machine cleaning must occur every 30 days, acceptable to keep internal logs, but must be available if BOH makes a site visit. Mr. Santelli took ownership for follow up with these new SOP's.

**Documents Submitted:**

- None.

**Board comments, questions:**

- JT: asked for a repair update. Repair updates:
  - Floor: Sturbridge Host representatives discussed that they have had difficulty in getting timely responses from local floor repair contractors. They have now sought assistance as far out as Hartford, CT for an estimate. They are trying to schedule this walkthrough evaluation with this contractor this week. Once estimates are in hand, the Host hopes to have it completed by mid-April. If they find the project is larger than expected, they will work on coordinating with the Health Department on identifying the worst areas to complete first.
  - Gaskets: In the process of being swapped out on most of the refrigeration units.
  - Ceiling Tiles: All damaged tiles have been repaired, others are in the process of being cleaned.
- JT reiterated that a serve safe person must be on site at all times. Dennis – that was a mis-hap and won't occur again.
- JT: What is the status of the pool and hotel rooms? PR: The Pool and Hotel Rooms are in good condition. JT stated common violations that often occur can be avoided. Please make sure the fans are working, caulking around the bathtub is intact and without mold, assure seals on windows are intact and in proper working order and working smoke detectors. WD suggested that you may want more staff around the pool during holiday/school vacation weeks
- JT: We have your licensing renewal applications processed, however there are outstanding financial obligations to the Town (Water/Sewer bill outstanding) you will need to work with the Finance Office so we can issue you, your permits. Russ: Understood.
- RA: What was the worst violation? WD: Sanitizer use. Seemed that the staff didn't know how to use and how much to mix. WD trained them upon a site visit. Dennis: All staff training will be taking place over the next few months. The sanitizer is automatically dispensed by the manufacturer. JT: if you test daily then you will know it's appropriately calibrated. Dennis: We also do a daily dishwasher test vs. the weekly recommendation per the State.
- RA: Is there a pro-active capital improvement plan? Russ: Yes, we have 5 yr plan.

**Audience comments, questions:**

- None.

**6:30pm Public Hearing: Economy Lodge, 682 Main Street – Owner and Tenant to discuss access to room for Owner to rectify Tenant requested repairs, violations and housing concerns.**

**Owner Briefing:** Jim Hwang, Owner Economy Lodge (aka Econo Lodge)

- Violations were found during a recent inspection requested by the tenant, Shawna. Existing outstanding violations include: exterminate mice, repair fan in bathroom and replace a lightbulb.
- Tenant won't allow Owner access to make repairs.

**Documents Submitted:**

- None.

**Board comments, questions:**

- JT: By law, the tenant must provide access to Owner. The Owner must allow at least 24-hour notice to the Tenant.
- LC: After 14 days of occupancy in a hotel, laws change for tenant/owner and occupancy use.
- WD: The tenant was available via phone and agreed to allow access to Owner on Wed, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4pm. The tenant won't be present during this time.
- JT: Jim you can request a police officer to be present while the work is being conducted to satisfy the current order to correct. Schedule a professional pest exterminator for Wed between 1 – 4. The BOH will need a copy of the pest report upon completion of work.

**Audience comments, questions:**

- None.

**6:45pm Public Hearing: David Pelletier, 181 Shepard Road – Owner requesting to provide additional information/follow up regarding an on-site sewage disposal system.**

- Owner was not present. BOH agreed to grant an extension to Mr. Pelletier in order to appear before the BOH for the next meeting.

**Wendi Denning, Health Inspector:** Officially gave her notice to BOH. Her last day will be Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. LC/JT will be working on advertising her position and working on posting the position by the end of this week.

**7:00pm Open Public Discussion regarding Fluoride in Sturbridge Public Water:** Jean Solaroli (JS), resident, has concerns with fluoride and would like to discuss with the BOH. Michael Suprenalt (MS), resident would like to discuss as well.

- JS: Why do we add this to our public water supply? It's poison as clearly stated on both tubes of toothpaste I brought with me tonight.
- MS: Years ago, the Dartmouth BOH faced the fluoride issue. I did years of research on the subject. I am a licensed water treatment operator and registered professional engineer. Research shows that Fluoridation does prevent cavities. Most anti-fluoridation claims have been proven false and inaccurate. There are no serious health ramifications. Although it's controversial, evidence is in favor of it.
- LC: Most of the data opposing fluoride is from other countries, therefore can't be backed up in our country. Perhaps you could filter out the fluoride from your water.
- BA: Aside from my position on the BOH, I am currently a practicing dentist. Certain age groups have recommended appropriate dosages. These dosage percentages have been thoroughly researched for over 60 years. Toothpaste has varying levels of fluoride. Drinking water has a highly-regulated level.
- JS: Where does the fluoride go in your body? BA: Bones and Teeth. There was concern it goes to the brain. Fluoride is now sodium fluoride which is a by-product of phosphates. JT: We can get the Department of Public Health opinion for you. The reason the DPW was considering removing fluoride from the water was a cost associated reason, not a public health safety concern. JS: Thank you for the discussion, but I'm still not convinced.
- BOH concluded the discussion feeling no further action was warranted at this time.

**Agent's Report:**

- **Southbridge Landfill: LC briefing on recent updates**
  - McGilpin Road: 2 resident wells were tested. Detectable levels were found in one of the two wells.
  - These are the first tests in Sturbridge. Conducted by Grant monies received. LC has asked for copies of these 2 well reports from these residents. One well was 500' deep and no issues found. The other well was 250-300' deep.
- Recently submitted BOH budget to TA office
- Continuing to work on renewal applications for business licenses in town.

**Old Business:** None discussed

**New Business:**

- Re-Appointment of JT: Motion to re-appoint Jamie Terry, Health Agent for an additional six months effective as of 1/1/2017: LC 2<sup>nd</sup>: RV Vote: 3-0, Unanimous.
- TOS DPW: LC would like to commend the work the DPW does on keeping our roads clear during snow and ice. As I was recently in another state and found out they couldn't handle the snow, much like we do here.

**Recycling Center/Landfill:** State grant for technical assistance has started to see if the town would benefit from a town recycling/trash curbside program instead of using outside/private vendors to haul away residents' trash at curbside.

**Correspondence:** None discussed.

**Public Comment Period:** None discussed.

**Motion to Adjourn Public Meeting at 8:00pm:** Role Call Vote: LC: Yes; BA: Yes.

**Next Meeting –** Mon, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30pm, Center Office Building.