

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

**Monday, March 20, 2017
Sturbridge Center Office Building, 2nd Floor**

Meeting called to Order: 5:35 pm

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC)
Bob Audet (BA)
Richard Volpe (RV)

Others Present: Jamie Terry (JT), Interim BOH Agent
Judy Rask, Clerk

Audience Members: Seth LaJoie, Mark Farrell, Reed Hillman, Stephen Soper

Regular BOH Meeting

LC opened the meeting by discussing the BOH request for a full time inspector position at the Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee still had concerns and when pressed for exactly what requirements/recommendations the BOH needs to provide, was told job tasks. JT indicated the descriptions and tasks have not changed.

Public Hearing opened 5:45 pm

JT spoke to Town Council regarding the existing local septic regulations, the original intent as noted in the minutes from their initial inception, and whether there is public health defense to the current regulations. [LC read from letter]. There is concern that the current regulations are more of a hindrance and cause excessive variances. Some requirements would prove difficult to defend in a court of law.

JT stated she had read through the current 17 pages and found it to be excessive and redundant. Some items are personal preferences from previous agent(s).

Reed Hillman, retired lawyer, Bushnell Road: Let me start by saying, I am thrilled about what is being done regarding the McGilpin Road lead concern with the private wells. In addition, I support what has already been stated here tonight regarding the existing local septic regulations being redundant.

Seth Lajoie agrees with JT regarding the Title 5 policies. The way to go is a straight Title 5. Title 5 is already overkill.

Mark Farrell: I have been designing septic systems for 25 years. If I remember correctly, I believe the regulations originally were proposed in this Town prior to Title 5 as some form of control. Since Title 5 was written and provides protections the local regulations here in Sturbridge are no longer needed.

Discussion ensued concerning the cost of new septic installations, repairs and Percs within our Community compared to the remainder of the State. Also discussed were why the regulations were originally written—most likely because at the time, Title 5 was a new state requirement and towns needed to have more control.

JT felt the Town of Sturbridge regulations are no longer needed.

Mark Farrell stated the Perc time frame is an issue as well as the involvement of variances.

LC made a motion that we null and void the Town of Sturbridge local septic regulations and strictly follow the state regulations for Title 5. Bob Audet seconded. All in favor.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Continuance of Regular Board Meeting at 6:10 pm

LC discussed the Southbridge landfill (SRDP) reconsideration. They have to advertise the “motion for reconsideration” and once DEP is in receipt of proof of public notice, there is a 21 day grace period for comments from all interested parties. Once RDP asked for reconsideration it was granted to them, they loss the right to appeal.

SRDP would be providing water to Charlton with \$5 million in grant money from DEP and Casella will be providing the other \$5 million.

JT has been in contact with DEP regarding the well samplings results for McGilpin Road. DEP has had a Geologist on McGilpin Road sampling rocks for lead contamination. LC talked about the 21E program in regards to the concern of the pollution source.

A long discussion ensued on the need for an engineer to perform a study on installing a water line on McGilpin Road and the cost involved. Other concerns discussed are that the water line will not prevent the source from being cleaned up and that the water line will help maintain property values.

181 Shepard Road – David Pelletier

Briefly discussed was David Pelletier’s inability to attend the BOH meetings. Mr. Pelletier has requested to postpone attendance until May 2017, which the Board of Health has agreed to.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Audet motioned to approve the minutes of February 13, 2017. Richard Volpe seconded. All in Favor.

Richard Volpe motioned to approve the minutes of February 17, 2017. Bob Audet seconded. All in favor.

Temporary Food Events

The Tattoo Festival is this weekend, March 24-27, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. There are 71 artists participating. JT and LC will be doing the inspections, along with the community health nurse, Cheryl Rawinski.

LC motioned to adjourn the meeting. Richard Volpe seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm.

