

## **Acton Board of Health**

**January 12, 2009**

Members Present: Joanne Bissetta, Chairman, Pam Harting-Barrat, Vice Chairman, Mark Conoby, Member, William McInnis, Member, Philip Alvarez, Member and Joseph Ianello, Associate Member.

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Isabel Roberts

Others Present: Peggy Mikkola, League of Woman Voters.  
Joel Seifer of 4 Ethan Allen Dr  
Duncan Brown, P.E.  
Mathias Rosenfeld  
George Dimakarakos, P.E.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

### **Minutes**

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated December 15, 2008 as amended

### **I/A Approval – 4 Ethan Allen Dr**

The Health Department has received a request for Acton Board of Health I/A Technology for the use of MicroFast 0.5 and Perc-Rite Drip Dispersal System in accordance with Modified Certification for Remedial Use issued by MA DEP, to allow for the repair of an On-Site Sewage Disposal System for the property located at 4 Ethan Allen Drive. The Health Department has reviewed the submitted plan and finds that use of the I/A Technology for the proposed system is likely to improve existing conditions. The Board asked if this technology will provide a nitrogen reduction. It was indicated that the system is not designed for a nitrogen reduction and the

applicants were not seeking a reduction. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance from 310 CMR 15.287(7) to the property located at 5 Ethan Allen Drive with the following conditions:

1. The system shall, at all times, be maintained in compliance with the most recent Modified Certification for Remedial Use issued by the MA DEP for the MicroFast 0.5 and Perc-Rite Drip Dispersal Systems
2. The septic tank shall be pumped once every two years.
3. The system shall be constructed in accordance with the above listed conditions and in accordance with the plan stamped by Duncan Brown, P.E., dated 12/11/2008.

### **Rosenfeld**

Mathias Rosenfeld and George Dimakarakos, P.E., presented the Board with an overview of the West Acton Village Ecology (*WAVE*), which included 6 conceptual drawings. The primary goal for WAVE is to become a local resource that links people to new cultural opportunities and commercial services, the built and natural environment, local history, and a shared sense of community. By striving to achieve this goal, West Acton would have a new community arts center, restaurant, retail and office space with existing historic buildings and a redesigned pedestrian-oriented streetscape to preserve the scale and spirit of West Acton Village.

The project site is comprised of the properties numbered 525, 531, 537 and 541 Massachusetts Ave. Each of these properties is served by an on-site sewage disposal system (SDS). The present conceptual proposal will combine these properties move some of the historic structures and construct additions. One of the four SDS's will be preserved at 541 Mass. Ave. with an existing approved design flow of 950 gpd. The SDS at 537 Mass. Ave. will be upgraded in order to support a portion of the proposed parking lot and has an existing approved design flow of 550 gpd. A third system is proposed on property presently known as 525 Mass. Ave. and will have a design flow of 3,140 gpd. A portion of the reserve area for this system will be located near the primary area on the 525 Mass Ave. property.

**Sewage Disposal System for 525 Mass Ave; 3,140 gpd; new construction**

The primary soil absorption system would be located within 100ft of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The entire site is located within Zone 3 of the Acton Groundwater Protection District. A portion of the reserve area for this system would be adjacent to the primary area and the other portion would be adjacent to the SDS B. Since the design flow for this system exceeds 2,000gpd, Title 5 requires a pressure distribution and mounding analysis. The Board of Health regulations require a Nitrate loading assessment as well. All of these requirements and analyses will be provided. An alternative technology is proposed for treatment of effluent from this system. The proposed effluent parameters are 30 mg/l TSS, 30 mg/L BOD and 25 mg/L Nitrogen. This treatment is proposed to mitigate the impact of the SDS since the setback to the wetland is less than 100ft. The Nitrate loading Assessment will evaluate the impact on the nearest sensitive receptor. In this case, Fort Pond Brook is the nearest sensitive receptor.

**Sewage Disposal System for 537 Mass Ave; 550 gpd; upgrade**

This system is proposed as an upgrade to an existing 550 gpd system. The system must be upgraded in order to construct a parking lot over it. The SAS of the system is presently set back about 57 ft from the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The upgraded SAS will be set back 81 ft from the Bordering vegetated Wetland. This will result in a net improvement over existing conditions with no increase in design flow, thus no additional treatment is proposed.

**Sewage Disposal System for 541 Mass Ave; 950 gpd; existing**

This system will remain in its current condition. A Title 5 inspection will be performed in order to verify that it is in good working order.

Waivers requested

- A waiver is required to allow the proposed soil absorption system to be located within 100 ft of the rain garden and infiltration basin. This waiver would be necessary due to significant site constraints. The project would meet Title 5 minimum standards overall and would exceed Title 5 standards with the proposed alternative technology.

- A waiver is required to allow the proposed soil absorption system to be located within the 100' buffer zone. The soil absorption system will not have an adverse effect on the wetlands or groundwater because treatment is being provided to reduce the BOD, TSS, and total Nitrogen concentration beyond the Title 5 required levels. An alternative technology will be used to treat effluent to 30 mg/L BOD, 30 mg/L TSS, and 25 mg/L Total Nitrogen.

After reviewing the proposed plans, the Board discussed several possible variations, and commented that they would feel more comfortable with a minimum 25ft from the well to the SAS. Overall the Board was generally pleased with the proposed plans and stated it would be beneficial to the town's development.

#### **Variance – 5 Granite Rd – Sieve Analysis**

The engineers, Stamski and McNary, for the property located at 5 Granite Rd in Acton are seeking the Boards approval of a sieve analysis for the property located at 93 Great Rd. The Health Department stated that a percolation test could not be conducted due to the saturated soils. The results of the sieve analysis showed the following:

Sample 1 Test Pit 4: C Horizon: Class I, 0.74 gpd/sf

Sample 2 Test Pit 4: B Horizon: Class I, 0.66 gpd/sf

The Health Department finds the submitted results in accordance with MA DEP Policy #: BRP/DWM/PeP-P00-4(superseding P00-1) and recommended Sample 2 for approval as a percolation test substitute, as it is the most restrictive layer, with the following conditions:

1. Should any system using the aforementioned sieve analysis results fail, the system owner shall immediately notify the Board of Health, in writing, and make appropriate upgrades.

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to grant approval of the use of sieve analysis for the property located at 5 Granite Rd.

**Board Reorganization**

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to grant the position of Vice Chairman to Ms. Harting-Barrat for a one year term.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Harting-Barrat, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Isabel Roberts, Health Secretary  
Acton Board of Health

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Joanne Bissetta, Chairman  
Acton Board of Health