

Acton Board of Health

February 25, 2008

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

Staff Present: Heather Hasz, Health Agent and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Peggy Mikkola, representative for league of women voters.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated February 11, 2008 as written.

Remedial Use Approval – 31 Ethan Allen Drive

The Health Department has reviewed an application and proposed design for the replacement of the onsite wastewater system at 31 Ethan Allen Drive. The system has been designed to accommodate three bedrooms and will replace the failing septic system with the use of the Eljen system in order to utilize the allowed condition of a two (2) foot offset to groundwater. The Board would need to approve this use and then needs to be submitted to the D.E.P. for approval also. In addition this needs to be recorded to the deed and an approval packet will be submitted to the homeowner outlining the conditions of the approved use. Also, annual inspections need to occur to check the functionality of the system. The proposed system will be 600 square feet. The Health Department recommends approval of this request. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to approve the remedial use approval at 31 Ethan Allen Drive with the following conditions:

1. The system is approved for the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage only. Any wastes that are non sanitary sewage generated or used at the facility served by the system shall not be introduced into the on-site sewage disposal system and shall be lawfully disposed of.
2. The system owner shall at all times properly operate and maintain the on-site sewage disposal system.
3. The system owner shall have the system inspected annually by an operator trained by the company and shall submit the results of that inspection, on a technology checklist, to the approving authority.
4. The system owner shall furnish the department any information that the department requests regarding the operation and performance of the system, within 21 days of the date of receipt of that request.
5. No system owner shall authorize or allow the installation of the system other than by a person trained to install the system.
6. Prior to issuance of a certificate of compliance for the system, the system owner shall record and/or register in the appropriate Registry of Deeds and/or Land Registration Office, a notice disclosing both the existence of the alternative septic system subject to this approval of the system. If the property subject to the notice is unregistered land, the notice shall be marginally referenced on the owner's deed to the property. Within 30 days of recording and/or registering the notice, the system owner shall submit the following to the department and the local approving authority: (i) a certified registry copy of the notice bearing the book and page/instrument number and/or document number; and (ii) if the property is unregistered land, a registry copy of the owner's deed to the property, bearing the marginal reference.
7. The system be built in accordance with the plan stamped by Steven Calichman, RS, dated February 13, 2008.
8. All other conditions noted in the DEP Modified Approval for Remedial Use Letter, dated July 11, 2007.

Presentation – Wellness University

Heather Hasz spoke about this year's Wellness University which is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Parker Damon Building. Ms. Hasz informed the Board that last year we received a grant to hold Wellness University and worked in conjunction with other agencies and approximately 140 people over the age of 50 attended. Ms. Hasz stated that doctors from Emerson Hospital spoke during the day and all the classes were very well received. Unfortunately, this year we have not acquired grant funding and are looking to the community for help. However, Ms. Hasz stated that local merchants have already expressed interest in helping. Ms. Hasz stated that last year's event was also held at the Parker Damon building and all available open space was used. The day consisted of vendor fairs, chair yoga, personal training, classes which included diabetes and psychological issues, etc... Ms. Hasz further stated that in the future she would like to hold a 5K road race in conjunction with the day. The Board asked if we had looked into bringing different ethnic organizations into the day and also stated that they had a contact to help us bring in the Chinese community. Dr. Taylor also volunteered to do a presentation. Ms. Hasz stated that she would appreciate the Board's help as much as possible and would be grateful for anything they can give to the day. The Board also thought this day would be a good time to seek volunteer applications for the medical reserve corp. and also a great opportunity to pass out emergency preparedness flyers. Mr. McInnis stated that one complaint he heard at last years event was that the vendors were looking for larger tables and suggested that we look into renting some larger ones and then charge the vendor that fee. The Board also stated that some vendors were selling their items and suggested that they be charged a fee for that. The Board suggested that there not be a fee for the Non profit and charge groups that are For- profit. Ms. Hasz stated that she will be working with a \$6,000 budget and expects some additional funding from Emerson Hospital. Ms. Hasz also stated that the Friends of the Acton Nursing Service will be making a significant contribution to this year's event. The Board also suggested that Ms. Hasz ask potential presenters for a program abstract this year in order to eliminate people selling their product during the session. Ms. Hasz thanked the Board for their suggestions.

Discussion

The Acton Public Health Nursing Service (APHNS) has received a letter from Excella Healthcare indicating that they offer rehabilitation services at the Inn @ Robbins Brook in Acton. The Health Department has reviewed the letter and believes that this is an attempt to take existing APHNS patients and the letter alludes that Excella Healthcare is more skilled in the services that they provide. The Health Department has drafted a letter to the Inn @ Robbins Brook asking them to appear before the Board to discuss the letter and needs the Board's support. Mr. Conoby stated that there is a lot of history with Robbins Brook and feels that it should be investigated prior to sending out the letter. The Board suggested that a smaller meeting may be better received and discussed giving the Health Director authority to hold a meeting. Ms. Hasz stated that the Health Department's position is that a hearing before the Board and them agreeing to the meeting would be about being a good community member not a legal issue. Mr. Ianelli stated that we should be selling the APNNS and we could sell them by doing a mailing to everyone at Robbins Brook. The Board agreed that the APHNS should sell themselves as much as possible but local government does not typically compete with businesses and that we should work more on marketing of our services. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Harting-Barrat, the Board directed Mr. Halley to enter into discussion with the Executive Director or sign a letter by the Health Director.

Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit – Fort Pond Brook – Arlington/Central St.

The Health Department has received a request for an Emergency Beaver Trapping permit due to beaver activities on Fort Pond Brook between Arlington and Central Street. The Health Department has conducted an on-site inspection and has determined that a Human Health and Safety issue exists as the septic systems servicing the Douglas and Gates School are in danger of being flooded. The Health Department recommends approval of this request and recommends that the Board of Health approve a 10-day emergency trapping permit. On a motion made by Dr. Harting-Barrat, seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board voted to grant a 10 day trapping permit beginning tomorrow for a period of ten days. Motion withdrawn. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to grant a 10 day

emergency trapping permit with a 10 day extension if needed to the property located on Fort Pond Brook between Arlington and Central Street.

Other –

- The Board directed the Health Department to place the list of goals for Board discussion on March 10, 2008.
- Ms. Bissetta informed the Board that the Town received a grant from the D.E.P for an anti-idling kit and recycling bins.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Harting-Barrat, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health

William Taylor, Chairman
Acton Board of Health