

Acton Board of Health

June 22, 2009

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

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Isabel Roberts.

Others Present: Peggy Mikkola, League of Woman Voters.
D.J.Morris, 32 Wetherbee St
Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, 12 John Swift Rd
Jim Yourk, 97 Windsor Ave.
Kurt Hayes, Boxboro – Lyme disease

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm

32 Wetherbee Street – Hearing

The Health department presented the Board with a complaint from Clement Moritz of 32 Wetherbee Street regarding the incomplete installation of a septic system by a Licensed Installer, D.J.Morris. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by, Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to have the D.J.Morris meet with the Health Department at 32 Wetherbee Street to inspect the work in question and determine corrective work for any elements within Title 5 that were not addressed during construction.

Jim Yourk – Variance - Use of Cistern for irrigation purposes

The Health department presented the Board with a request from Jim Yourk of 97 Windsor Ave. to install a cistern at that address. The purpose of the cistern is for irrigation purposes only. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, and seconded by Ms. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to approve Mr. Yourk's request to install a cistern at 97 Windsor Ave., with the following conditions:

1. The cistern will collect groundwater from a sump pump and from two downspouts.
2. During the growing season the water will be used for irrigation purposes, out of season the water will be discharged in the location where the sump pump currently discharges.
3. Prior to the installation of the cistern a sketch of its location, noting its setback distances to the existing septic system, be provided to the Health Department.

12 John Swift Drive – Variance

The Health Department received a request for a variance from CMR 15.211(1) for a reduction in the required minimum setback distance from slab foundation to soil absorption system. And, Health Department Regulations, Article 11-6.1.3.1, a setback distance requirement from pier/sonotube foundation to septic tank. The Board questioned if any variances were requested when the original system was installed. It was noted that there have been no previous variance requests. The applicants informed the Board that the front footings are to be dug by hand versus using an excavating machine. This is for added caution. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to grant the requested variances with the following conditions:

1. All work will be performed in accordance with proposal.
2. If existing site conditions are found during excavation to be different than proposed, all work will be stopped and the Health Department will be notified.
3. A fully conforming onsite wastewater system will be required in the event of future replacement or Board of Health variance approval must be requested.

APHNS – Merrily Evdokimoff

Merrily Evdokimoff on behalf of the Acton Public Health Nursing Service presented to the Board an overview report for FY09 and Policy Manual Recommended Revisions to PAC. One of the more noticeable changes in the report was the increase in the number of Medicare admissions. Admissions jumped from 44% in April, 2009 to 65% in May, 2009. The Board asked Merrily about the possibility of expansion. Merrily stated that the APHNS is currently looking into the option of contracting with Marlboro Hospital, as this hospital is frequently used by residents of Acton and Stow. Additionally, APHNS continues to provide services to the

Town of Stow through the Stow Health Department. The following are the requested revisions to the APHNS policy manual;

GENERAL CHANGES

The Major changes for the Clinical Policies are the chapter headings. Initially the policies were consolidated in one chapter heading, Provision of Care and Treatment Services. This chapter has been broken down into three chapters as follows –

Chapter 8 – Assessment

Chapter 9 – Care, Treatment and Service

Chapter 10 – Continuum of Care

The following policies have been taken out of the manual for various reasons as listed below.

- Conflicts in Provision of Care – Subsumed in Ethics chapter
- Blood Glucose Monitoring – Not eligible under Waived Lab status-teaching only
- Doppler Device - No longer used within the agency
- Care of a Dying Patient – Subsumed under patient care policies
- Hem occult Testing - Procedure not policy
- Retention of Patient Keys – no longer hold due to liability issues
- Use of Side rails in Home – outdated due to restraint regulations
- Patient Home Safety, Assessment and Teaching – incorporated in Assessment Visit Policy

SPECIFIC CHANGES BY POLICY

ASSESSMENT

Admission Visit – Medicare Questionnaire now incorporated in the Notice of Acceptance form used on admission

Reassessment of Patients – recertification paperwork flow sheet no longer used

Reporting of Abuse, Neglect and Misappropriation of Property – phrase incident

Report changed to Unusual Occurrence Report

Pain Management – Revised to reflect electronic record. Patient flow sheet of pain assessment is documented in clinical record and logged in pt Personal Health Record provided to patient on admission to services.

CARE, TREATMENT AND SERVICE

Adverse Medication Reaction – Phrase Incident report changed to Unusual Occurrence report.

9-9 Medication Errors - Phrase Incident report changed to Unusual Occurrence report.

9-10 Oximetry Device – Phrase Nursing Staff has been changed to Clinicians as Therapy Staff also use Oximetry devices.

CONINUUM OF CARE

Admission Criteria and Process – Form given to patient NOT admitted to APHNS related to Medicare criteria changed from Home Health Advanced Beneficiary Notice to Medicare Notice of Non-Coverage.

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, and seconded by Ms. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to accept the amended nursing service policies.

Special Town Meeting Recommendations

Doug Halley presented the Board with Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting, commenting that this article would fund the design and construction of Low Pressure Sewers for Durkee Rd, Flint Rd, Lothrop Rd, Mallard Rd, Spencer Rd, Tuttle Dr, Torrington Ln and Wayside Ln. The Low Pressure Sewer Lines will connect to the existing public wastewater system on Prospect St. The funding for the project will be through the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, which is using stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to forgive a small percentage of principal and to reduce the interest payments of the 30 year loan. As required under Chapter D-10 of the Town Bylaws, the loan will be fully paid back through betterments by the owners of the properties on the aforementioned streets. These properties were identified by the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan as within a High Priority Needs Area. On a motion made by Ms. Harting-Barrat, and seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to support and recommend approval for Article 1; Tuttle – Flint sewer district.

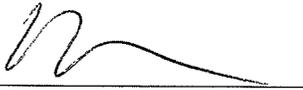
Other Business

Mr. Kurt Hayes offered the Board information on the Lyme Disease Program that focuses on awareness, education and legislation.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Isabel Roberts, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health



Joanne Bissetta, Chairman
Acton Board of Health