

Acton Board of Health
Room 126, Acton Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

October 26, 2015

Members Present: Michael Kreuze –Chairman, Dr. William Taylor, Joanne Bissetta
and Mark Conoby

Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Agent
Weiyuan Sun-Administration

Other Present: Jennifer Querbes, Ernie Merrill, Laurie Merrill, Leo Fochtman, Catherine Fochtman
and Peg Mikkola

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated October 5, 2015 as amended.

1 Parmley Drive- Complaint

The Health Department has received a formal complaint from Jennifer Querbes, owner of 1 Parmley Drive, Acton, MA on October 1, 2015.

Ms. Querbes stated that she and her husband purchased this property on May 2013. A minor permit was issued by Health Department on October 30, 2012 for Steve Defoe (previous owner listed as Jack W. Parmley c/o Defoe, Stephen per assessor records) to replace only the septic tank and add riser. A certificate of compliance was issued on April 26, 2013 and installer was Ernie's Excavating, Inc. who replaced the tank and added the riser.

On August of 2015, Ms. Querbes hired ABC Cesspool to maintain and to pump their septic system; and had a difficulty finding location of the septic tank. ABC Cesspool discovered two septic tanks located 17.6" below grade, rather than the required 6". As well as the pump chamber tank had no manhole cover, no filter and no risers installed to grade over pump. As a result of these issues Ms. Querbes spent an additional \$500 to find tanks and the installation of risers to bring the covers to grade. The board members listened and discussed these issues with Ms. Querbes and Ernie's Excavating. The Board found that there was no documentation or information indicating that Ernie's Excavation was responsible for the excess soil placed over the tank. It was suggested that this excess soil was placed there for landscaping purposes after installation by the previous owner. It was also found that the pump chamber was installed prior to Title 5 changes that required that the manhole cover be brought to grade. The Board expressed their sympathy to Ms. Querbes but took no action.

18 Wright Terrace-Upgrade

The Health Department has received a request to update a current septic system from 4-5 bedrooms for the property located at 18 Wright Terrace. The current septic system is permitted for 4 bedrooms with a 1500 gallon septic tank and 900 Square feet of leaching area; and the percolation rate for was 4 and 8 mpi. For this upgrade calculation, the Health Department used worst case soils for this unknown soil on site of Class I or II. For instance, Using current Title 5

Loading rates, Class II soils and 8 mpi percolation rates provides 540 gpd. This leaves the septic system 10 gpd short of the required 550 gpd. If these soils were determined to be Class I then this septic is suitable for 594 gpd providing 44 extra gpd. The increase is needed to accommodate care for elderly parents. Current water records show use to average 193 gpd for the last year. On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to grant an approval for 18 Wright Terrace to update a current septic system from 4-5 bedrooms with the following conditions:

1. The septic tank shall be pumped once every two years.
2. If the septic system were to fail the owners shall upgrade the septic system to a 5 bedroom design.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:34P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Weiyuan Sun
Acton Board of Health



Michael Kreuze -Chairman
Acton Board of Health