

Minutes
Northfield Board of Health
March 9, 2023
6:00 PM
Northfield Town Hall
69 Main Street, Northfield, MA
Board of Health Office 2nd Floor* Moved to Selectboard Meeting Room

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Quorum Established: David Balk, Ruth Potee, Kathy Bridges, Karen Boudreau, Allison Wahlstrom
Also Present: Pamela Veith, BOH Secretary, Jon Sieruta, Howard and Jinx Hastings, Sarah Kerns, James Holloway, Bill and Joanne McGee, Lynn Hansell, Michele Wood, Robin McKean

Business:

- Kathy Bridges filed the required disclosure allowing Kathy to participate in the Pierson Road Campground septic system design discussion. Jon Sieruta, engineer acting on behalf of the owners of the proposed campground, signed this disclosure agreeing for Kathy to participate.
 - David announced that the Board would be reviewing this septic system – no questions were to be asked by attending citizens as this was not a hearing but a design review. Citizens could comment during the Citizen's Concerns portion of our meeting.
 - David and the engineer went over all of the edits made by the Board. Engineer was agreeable to all edits. The Board questioned the erosion control barrier and whether a Wetlands' Specialist had been involved. Engineer stated that Clockwork, Inc was in charge of wetlands and surveys. Engineer agreed to find out what company did the wetlands delineations.
 - No permit has been submitted to the Board by Clockwork at this time. Board pointed out that plumbing venting wasn't included in this design. Engineer stated that the project manager of record, Christian Arnold, is in charge of all permitting. Engineer stated that there are no neighborhood wells within 200 feet of any of the system's components.
 - Ali asked that Clockwork submit all wetlands, sewer and site plans to Board of Health. Karen questioned flow capacity for each zone – 1,500 gallon tank for each 2 dwellings. Engineer explained how the tanks' size as well as the chambers were determined. The Board asked about the occupancy size of the proposed Community Hall stating that there were several different numbers of occupants on different areas of the design. Engineer explained that there is no kitchen in the Community Hall.
 - Engineer stated that the plans set in front of the Board are not a complete civil set – only a septic system design. Further, engineer states that the system is oversized for Title V regulations and based on the information they were given to work with. The engineer expressed concern about the information not yet submitted to the Board of Health by Clockwork.
 - Ruth suggested that the Planning Board as well as all other Boards involved in this project be part of the next meeting. David disagreed as that would create a hearing. The Board of Health can request and receive information from other Boards as it deems appropriate.
 - Ruth, Ali and Karen stated that Clockwork should be present at our next meeting on March 29th. Ali suggested the Board reach out to Clockwork ourselves. David to contact Steve Wiggin to attend and get Clockwork contact information.
 - Additional items Board would like answers to with documentation showing such: Storm water management plan, water supply piping, kitchen in Community Hall.
 - Kathy pointed out that the Special Permit was issued in 2019 and wondered if extensions to this had been granted.
- Urine Fertilizer discussion continued. Ruth had sent to Board members an article on its use. Kathy, who had reached out to DEP for guidance and information has not heard back from them. Upon checking with

other local Boards, Kathy found that Northampton has allowed and permitted its use in their town. This product is also in use on the Cape. Rich Earth, the company supplying this product, states that MA does not have any regulations on this product or its use while VT does and Rich Earth complies with their regulations.

- Board consensus is that they do not want to allow it to be used until all possible information has been acquired. Board also questioned whether testing of soil where it will be used should be done before and after use. Specific components to be tested for needs to be determined first. When it is determined what we should be looking for in tests, if the company supplying the product can provide such test results on its product prior to usage then the Board feels no further testing would need to be done.
- When Board has received and reviewed basic information on the Urine Fertilizer it will ask the applicant to come and speak with the Board. The Board hopes to be able to invite the applicant for an April 12 meeting in order to reach a decision and provide a permit prior to planting season.
- FRCOG contract for nursing services expires June 9, 2023 – This is the end of our 3 year contract. Discussion on the grant covering nursing services for the towns of Shutesbury, Orange and Erving is available for us to join if we would like. Discussion commenced about not knowing what services exactly and how well our town would be covered ensued. Board does not want to let go of the services we have through FRCOG without knowing what to expect from the grant. David stated that according to our FRCOG contract, we need to give a one year notice to withdraw. Kathy has been attending the meetings and will report additional information at our next meeting. Ruth suggested that we submit our one year notice for withdrawal from FRCOG as David states we can rescind that withdrawal at any time.
- Highland Avenue tenant complaint was received. David stated that the Board is not authorized to resolve landlord/tenant disputes but will step in should there be a health concern such as mold. David has reached out to the resident but has not heard back.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- February 15, 2023 Minutes- Approved

Citizen's Concerns:

- Patter Field and Joanne McGee asking if Board could sign their special permit application for a 350th Celebration with a chicken barbeque. They are permitted by Franklin County Meals Program but have not gotten a Food Permit from Northfield Board of Health. David told them to submit for the Northfield Food Permit, at no charge since they are a non-profit/church organization. Motion made and seconded with unanimous vote to allow JoAnn to call David and he would sign their form. Secretary to give FC Health Inspector's number and our food permit application form to JoAnn if she couldn't find it online.
- Jinx Hastings – Wanted to point out to the Board that the campground is a violation of the zoning in town. Jinx also stated that the court case involving the campground took 9 months to complete. She also expressed appreciation for the work the Board has done and continues to do.
- Jim Holloway – Expressed concerns about wetlands near septic system. He states that the ground is sloped and is concerned about rainwater runoff. Kathy assured him that the Board needs to know where the wetlands are and has asked for the delineation to be provided.
- Sarah Kerns – Stated that she would like the March 29, 2023 Board of Health meeting recorded. Sarah states that the Special Permit for the campground has not been recorded in the Registry of Deeds. She also requested a baseline noise measurement to determine a town bylaw based on that. Sarah further requested that this baseline measurement be done seasonally.

Permit Applications:

- Robert Deane Excavating – Installer's Permit - approved
- Northfield Golf Club – Food Service Permit - approved

Reports:

- NONE

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours:

- NONE

Adjourn: 7:38 pm

Raymond L. Bradger

Alcen

Ande Ball