

**Minutes**  
**Northfield Board of Health**  
**March 29, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Northfield Town Hall**  
**69 Main Street, Northfield, MA**  
**Board of Health Office 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and William Sieruta, Margaret Vohrs, Howard and Jinx Hastings, James Holloway, Michele Wood, Robin McKeon, Lisa White, Emilee Klein, Tammy Pellitier

**Business:**

- Engineers for the Campground project brought septic system design with all edits requested by Board. David states that Clockwork sent the requested information to the Board also. Engineer explained to Board his reasoning for tanks with ballast as well as all other edits which had been requested by Board.
  - David stated that Steve Sereyndski, Planning Board Chairman, has confirmed that the Campground Special Permit has been extended to May 24, 2024.
  - Ali questioned number of buildings on plan and their layout. Engineer states that the Community Hall was moved on the septic system design as the original layout had that building placed over the soil absorption area. Board questioned if the architectural layout needs to go back to the Building Inspector as locations of a building has changed.
  - Kathy states that no erosion control was necessary on this design as per Conservation Commission.
  - Engineer and Board of Health members David and Kathy state that they will be inspecting this project as each zone is being installed and prior to completion.
  - David stated that he believes the Board should vote to approve the septic system design but make the issuance of the permit to Construct be a separate step as this will constitute 10 septic inspections and the fee price needs to be adjusted. Kathy made a motion to accept the septic system design as it is now compliant with Title V regulations. David seconded. All approved and motion passed. The septic system design as is now is accepted.
  - David explains how the Permit to Construct is approved and that conditions can be attached to that permit. Ruth questions if this system is Planning Board approved and it is explained that Planning Board doesn't weigh in on this. David explains that Conservation Commission is usually contacted prior to a Building Permit being granted. It is decided that the Conservation Commission will be asked if they have signed off on this project. Kathy states that she would at least like to see a WPA-1 by Conservation Commission. David explains that the project is all outside of the 200 foot buffer zone and a Building Permit has been granted.
  - David suggests a fee adjustment to \$1,000 for all inspections and permit for construction.
  - Ruth doesn't want to issue permit without a meeting with the Planning Board Chairman. Pam to contact Planning Board Chairman and ask him to come to our next meeting on April 5, 2023. Ruth would also like the Conservation Commission's Chairman to verify that they have seen and found acceptable the wetlands delineation. Ali wants to be assured of the two person per campsite occupancy. Engineer suggested to phrase this as an occupancy limit. Karen would like specific data on where the runoff water will be emptying to. Decision to carry over the next meeting on April 5, 2023 further discussion on issuing the permit to construct the septic system.
  - Motion by David to carry permit discussion over to the next meeting. Seconded by Karen. All in favor. Motion carried.



- Urine Fertilizer discussion continued. Applicant Jesse Markshom and Rich Earth representative Arthur Davis were present. Kathy states that DEP has been non-responsive to her request for additional guidance.
  - Arthur Davis states that when the company's renewal of permit came about VT added a new stipulation. They now required a test to be performed for the presence of Pfos. There are still no high or low parameters set. This will probably provide a baseline for moving forward. Davis states that the sampling was done and submitted but results are not yet in.
  - Davis states that his product has not been through any of the wastewater treatment that solid waste fertilizers go through.
  - Davis states that he doesn't have any idea how long it will be before he receives the test results. Soil testing is normally just done for nutrients.
- Davis states that Rich Earth does not have any current clients in the state of MA although previously they had been used in Orange and Northampton. The city of Falmouth is investigating its use at this time.
- Ruth expressed concern over not hearing anything back from DEP but applauded the idea of this type of fertilizer. Rich Earth representative restated that in VT its use is unrestricted.
- Applicate again stated that his plan was to use it on non-food, perennial trees. David's concern is that if the Board waits for the soil testing already submitted in the state of VT to come in it wouldn't be until a time that precluded this year's spring use. Rich Earth representative states the best date for application is in May and the last date is mid-June.
- Rich Earth representative states that their product is highly diluted for applications with the target to be seeded, mulched and then diluted product is applied. Rich Earth also states it is working under a USDA grant and the usage plan is being formulated and adjusted as they progress.
- Ruth states that she fears the Board would be closing a door to this product's use solely based on poor results from the use of some solid waste fertilizers. Ali states that she feels since VT is allowing its use we should also.
- Motion was made by Ruth, seconded by Kathy. Karent asked if sample testing already submitted to lab could be expedited and was told unlikely. Ruth motioned, Ali seconded and motion was carried to approve applicant's permit with the following conditions: A) for use on his stated perennial trees and B) yearly test results to be submitted to the Board, and C) this permit will be site specific.
- Applicant was instructed that he may proceed and the Board will send his permit with stated conditions as soon as it has been drafted and signed. The minutes of this meeting will suffice in the interim.
- Continuation of FRCOG discussion carried over to next meeting, April 5, 2023
- Animal Control Officer position up for reappointment. Ali nominated Dan Gray, Ruth seconded and the Board unanimously reappointed Dan Gray as animal control officer.

#### **Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- March 9, 2023 Minutes- Approved

#### **Citizen's Concerns:**

- Joan Valva expressed concern over setting a precedent with the approval of the urine fertilizer since no boundaries have been set yet by the state. She states that she remembers when in Deerfield a sludge (solid waste) fertilizer was approved which turned out to be very detrimental to the environment. Joan also states



she is concerned with water contamination due to runoff. Rich Earth representative restated that the product is very diluted and when applied it does not runoff.

- Margaret Vohr states, and the Board acknowledges, that she sent the Board a letter with her concern about the Campground septic system. She read her letter to the Board. Her concern is for a private, shallow, abandoned well on her property and that it is within 200' of the campground system thus being ripe for contamination. Mrs. Vohr states that her property is subdividable and with the existing abandon well's location it will adversely affect her property's market value. Kathy showed Mrs. Vohr how the abandoned well she is concerned with is much more than 200' from the approved campground septic system. Mrs. Vohr acknowledged that although her abandoned well is within 200' of the campground property boundary it isn't within 200' of any component of the approved septic system.
- Michele Wood wants Conservation Commission involved in the approval of the already approved septic system for the campground. She feels a Notice of Intent should be the minimum documentation from Conservation Commission. Michele also feels that the term "seasonal" is too vague. Michele also states that her belief is without the Special Permit for the campground being recorded it is not valid. David redirected her concern on this to other authorities with Ruth stating that we are the Board of Health.
- Jinx Hastings expressed disapproval of the term "Campground." Her concern carries to her fear of the campground being sold to someone who will live there year round. Jinx also states that she believes Town Counsel or the Attorney General requires that Special Permit be recorded in the Registry of Deeds.

Permit Applications:

- The Brewery at Four Star Farm – Food Permit - Approved

Reports:

- NONE

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours:

- NONE

Adjourn: 7:47 pm

Kathryn L. Bridger

An D Wallstrom

David E. Poter

David E. Poter 5/10/23