

TOWN OF GROVELAND

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**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, January 27, 2022**

**ATTENDEES:** Deborah Kadar-Hull, RN, Chairperson  
James Stepanian, Member  
Rosemary Decie, RS, Health Agent  
Anita Wright, RN, Public Health Nurse  
Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.

This Board of Health meeting was held in the main meeting room at town hall.

Meeting Open: 6:33 PM

**AGENDA:**

The first agenda item is discussion with Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator. The Board decided to address the second agenda item 4 Yemma Rd., 1 variance request. In attendance were Antonio Yemma, homeowner, 27 Bay Rd., Ipswich, MA and Seth Lajoie, RS, Seth L. Lajoie and Associates, 27 Becket St., Salem, MA. Seth Lajoie said he is requesting a 10 foot variance from the foundation. Seth Lajoie said he is very limited for space for this system because of the flood plain elevation and he could not utilize the opposite side of the lot due to 8 feet of fill. Seth said he is proposing to remove the existing tank and replace it with a new tank. Seth told the Board he is proposing to use a 40 MIL poly barrier at 5 feet to mitigate any potential issues with affluent getting into the foundation. Rosemary said this property was before the Board earlier and the Board denied the 5 foot variance from the foundation. Rosemary said this is a revised plan with a different type of system which makes the leach field smaller and narrower so that they could achieve a 10 foot setback from the foundation, Title 5 regulations require 20 feet. Rosemary told the Board that there is no other place to put this system and Rosemary said she feels this is a much better plan than what was originally presented to the Board. The Board was in agreement. Kadar-Hull made a motion to approve 1 variance request, 4 Yemma Rd., 310CMR15.405(1)(b) TO ALLOW AN OFFSET DISTANCE LESS THAN 20 FEET FROM THE LEACH FIELD TO THE FOUNDATION. AN OFFSET DISTANCE OF 10 FEET IS REQUESTED, Stepanian seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Next the Board addressed 13 Yale St., 1 variance request. William Hall, PE, Civil Design Consultants, Inc., 344 North Main St., Andover, MA in attendance. Bill said this is a 3 bedroom house with a cesspool that is in failure because it is in groundwater. Bill said the lot is encumbered by a 20 foot wide drain easement

that runs diagonally across the lot and this easement greatly restricts the potential locations for a septic system. In addition, the rear of the lot past the easement slopes significantly uphill. Bill told the Board that the proposed system meets all minimum sizing requirements, is in close proximity to the building sewer invert and will require the least amount of disturbance on the site. Therefore, we are requesting consideration to allow a reduction to the minimum setback from the system to the cellar wall.

Kadar-Hull made a motion to approve 1 variance request, 13 Yale St., 310CMR15.405(1)(b) THE MINIMUM SETBACK TO CELLAR WALLS IS 20 FEET, 10 FEET IS REQUESTED, Stepanian seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Next Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator joined the meeting. Rebecca said she wanted the Board to be aware that she is available to provide support and resources and anything that she can do to assist Board. Kadar-Hull and Stepanian thanked Rebecca and said it is very much appreciated. The Board discussed with Rebecca specifics about the WasteZero overflow trash bag program and also ongoing problems with Waste Management not collecting scheduled routes on time. Rebecca said she asked Lori to do an excel spreadsheet listing the addresses when trash is not collected on time. Rebecca said in doing so, we will have the documentation needed should Waste Management's service doesn't improve.

Fourth agenda item is health agent update. Rosemary told the Board that in addition to septic system plan review, she has also started doing winter food establishment inspections. Rosemary said she performed soil testing for a new construction lot on Center St., completed 2 septic system inspections installed on King St. and Washington St. Rosemary told the Board that she has had to investigate 2 housing complaints at Manor Dr. and she is in the process of investigating a complaint about rats from a homeowner on Main St.

Next agenda item is public health nurse update. Anita said as of 1/27/22, the dashboard shows new covid cases for 14 days is 98.1, total count is up to 1,027 which we anticipated, hospitalizations are down to 2,521, down 600, ICU's are down to 396 and ventilation cases are down to 237 and Anita said that is a good trend. So we went from 972 new cases last week to 949 this week and Anita said she anticipates that the numbers will drop significantly again next week. Anita said the 101 positive cases she has been tracking in MAVEN, from January 5 to January 27, only 9 of those cases were Bagnall school kids. Anita told the Board that now that the holidays are over she is very hopeful that the cases will continue to come down. Anita told the Board she has been working on getting home Covid test kits to distribute to our residents with ARPA funding. Anita told the Board

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that she attended the last Selectmen's meeting and the health department was approved for \$6,000 for the purchase of test kits. Anita said she is working on ordering the kits from a state approved vendor, the town warrant process and she will keep the Board apprised. Anita told the Board there was discussion at the Selectmen's meeting regarding a covid vaccine mandate for children attending the Groveland Summer 2022 Recreation Program. Anita said that Selectmen Chair Watson asked for a recommendation from the Board of Health. The Board stated that they would take this matter under advisement and will discuss at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda is review minutes for approval. Lori told the Board that she has not completed the minutes from December's meeting.

Last agenda item is review and approve FY2023 health department budget. Lori told the Board that she completed the budget packet with the documents required by the Town Administrator, cover letter, mission statement, 2023 department goals and excel spreadsheet. Stepanian made a motion to approve FY2023 Health Department Budget, Kadar-Hull seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned: 8:32 PM

Next Board of Health Meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Meeting minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.

Board of Health approved minutes 2/16/22