

TOWN OF GROVELAND

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**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

**ATTENDEES:** Deborah Kadar-Hull, RN, Chairperson  
James Stepanian, Member  
David Greenbaum, RS, 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: 6:30 PM

**AGENDA:**

The first agenda item is 22 Wood St., 2 variance requests. Due to time constraints, Rosemary requested the Board address Center St., Lots 1 & 2, new construction. Matthew Steinel, SE, SI, Millennium Engineering, Inc., 62 Elm St., Salisbury, MA was in attendance to discuss specifics of the new construction septic systems with the Board. Rosemary and Matt told the Board they wanted to discuss this with the Board because it is a unique situation. Matt told the Board they are proposing a single family, six bedroom new construction home on each lot. The homes will have private wells and Advanced Presby Enviro-Septic Systems. Matt said the DEP issued an "Innovative and Alternative Technology" approval for the Advanced Presby Enviro-Septic System dated February 2022. The approval limits the use of this technology to design flows of 880 GPD or a use equivalent of not more than 8 bedrooms, based on the state's design criteria of 110 GPD/Bedroom. Matt said it is our professional opinion that this design meets both the requirements and intent of the approval as this is a 6 bedroom use with a total state design flow of 660 GPD. Matt and Rosemary told the Board the concern brought up exists only at the local level as the Town of Groveland's regulation increases the minimum design requirements to 150 GPD/Bedroom resulting in a total design flow of 900 GPD. This does not have any effect on compliance with state requirements as the approval issued by DEP is related to state design requirement only. The system was oversized to accommodate the local requirement, however, the oversized field is still shown for a proposed 6 bedroom use and does not provide expanded capacity capable of servicing more than 6 bedrooms under the local regulation or 8 bedrooms under the DEP approval. Rosemary said she and Matt decided to ask Presby for a letter for clarification and Rosemary presented copies of the letter to the Board.

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Stepanian made a motion to approve 900 GPD/Bedroom per Town of Groveland regulations as opposed to DEP approval of maximum 880 GPD/Bedroom at Center St., Lots 1 & 2 and is contingent upon Conservation Commission approval, Greenbaum seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Next the Board addressed 22 Wood St., 2 variance requests. Greg Saab, ESS, 70 Bailey Court, Haverhill, MA was in attendance to discuss the variances requested with the Board. Greg told the Board that this system is in failure. Greg and Rosemary said when they did the soil testing the deep holes kept caving in because the soil is so dry due to the drought. Greg and Rosemary said they have never seen this before. As a result, we couldn't get a perc so we had to do a sieve analysis. Greg said he prefers to use a stone and pipe leach field, therefore, he is requesting a variance to use the state regulation of 110 GPD/Bedroom which will provide a smaller leach field that will fit in the yard. The variances requested are;

1. TO USE 110 GPD/BEDROOM FOR DESIGN AREA OF SOIL ABSORPTION SYSTEM 150 GPD/BEDROOM IS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN OF GROVELAND.
2. SEIVE ANALYSIS USED INSTEAD OF PERCOLATION TEST 15.405 (1) (i).

Stepanian made a motion to approve two (2) variance requests for 22 Wood St., Greenbaum seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Third item on the agenda is public health nurse update. Anita informed the Board that she renewed her nursing license. Anita said there has been no Covid-19 guidance change. Anita suggested to the Board that the mask signage be removed from the front door at town hall. Anita said she feels the public is aware that they need to take a common sense approach to prevention which includes Covid-19 vaccination and boosters, good sanitation and frequent hand washing and voluntary face masks where social distancing is not possible and in the presence of high risk individuals. The Board agreed.

Greenbaum made a motion to remove the Covid-19 mask signage from the front door of town hall, Stepanian seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

The Board stated that they still want masks and hand sanitizer available to the public when they enter town hall placed at various locations throughout town hall. Anita said there have been seven (7) cases of lyme disease reported townwide. Presently, we are at low risk for covid and Groveland's numbers have been steady for the past eight weeks, however, there is a new strain BF7. They believe this variant will supersede the BA5 but the CDC doesn't have enough data on this one yet to say whether it is more pathogenic. Anita said the pandemic is basically controlled but has not gone away so we all need to follow protocols and take

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precautions. Anita informed the Board that she will not be holding any flu clinics this year. Anita said now that all the pharmacies provide flu shots, CVS, Walgreens, etc. they are no longer interested in community outreach programs which enable small towns, like ours, to hold flu clinics. Anita said CVS requires very detailed information on an excel spreadsheet, guaranteed appointments and if appointments are not kept, CVS charges the town \$15 for each unused syringe of vaccine. The Board said they understood and that we have to consider our budget should people not show for their appointments. Anita said next year she could purchase flu vaccine but we will have to budget for it. Anita told the Board that the Bagnall School decided not to have Northeast MA Mosquito Control spray the perimeter of the school grounds. Rosemary said due to the drought, we didn't have problems with mosquitos in Essex County this year which may be a factor in the school's decision. Greenbaum stated he thought it would have been wise to spray just to give the kids that extra level of protection. Anita told the Board that she placed an order for 900 Covid-19 home test kits from the state. Anita said Massachusetts as of today has 374 cases of money pox. Anita said because measles is prevalent, the schools are focusing on childhood immunizations.

Next on the agenda is health agent update. Rosemary said she has spent a lot of time reviewing septic system plans that required revisions. Rosemary said she had to do food inspections for Groveland Day and Northshore Cyclists and a residential kitchen inspection to bake cookies. Rosemary said next week she will be busy doing septic system inspections at 895 Salem St., Daniels Electric and Baldini Plumbing.

Last agenda item is review minutes for approval. Stepanian made a motion to approve meeting minutes of July 28, 2022, Kadar-Hull seconded and it was voted to approve 2-0. Greenbaum abstained because he was not present.

Meeting adjourned: 7:48 PM

Next Board of Health Meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Meeting minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.

Board of Health approved minutes 11/3/22