

TOWN OF GROVELAND

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 26, 2023**

ATTENDEES: David Greenbaum, RS, CHO, Chairperson
James Stepanian, Member
Rudianne Collins, 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 Health Department at town hall.

Meeting Open: 6:29 PM

AGENDA:

The first item on the agenda is 186 Center St., 3 variance requests. Aleksandr Chongris, PE, Chongris Engineering, 256 Beacon St., Andover, MA was in attendance to discuss the specifics of the variances with the Board. Alek said this system is in failure and he is proposing a Presby Advanced Enviro-Septic system. Rosemary said this is a revised plan, there were a couple of things that needed to be corrected. Rosemary said because the system's force main is close to the property line, the engineer is required to send notification to the abutters and Alek sent notification. Rosemary said this is an alternative system and is required to be noted on the deed and operation of maintenance is also required. The variance requests are;

1. A LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVAL IS REQUESTED TO REDUCE THE GROUNDWATER OFFSET FROM 5' TO 3' IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 21-CLM-000073-APP (REMEDIAL USE APPROVAL). THE 2 FOOT REDUCTION ALLOWANCE IS STATED IN THE MASS AES PRESBY DESIGN SECTION 4.22
2. A LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVAL IS REQUESTED FROM 15.211 TO REDUCE THE SETBACK OF A SAS FROM A SLAB FOUNDATION FROM 10 FT TO A MINIMUM OF 9 FT
3. A LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVAL IS REQUESTED TO REDUCE THE SETBACK OF THE SYSTEMS FORCE MAIN FROM A PROPERTY LINE FROM 10 FT TO 5 FT

Stepanian made a motion to approve 3 variances for 186 Center St., Collins seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Second item on the agenda is public health nurse update. Anita told the Board that the DPH has changed the Covid reporting dashboard and they are now

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reporting all respiratory illnesses, influenza, RSV and Covid and they have set up a separate dashboard for each of them. Anita said it is difficult for her to look at the trends the way they have it set up and she is trying to get acclimated to the new system. Anita said she has completed her section of the annual report that will be due in January. Anita told the Board that she contacted New England MedWaste for a quote on needle/syringe disposal. New England MedWaste will provide a 4.5 cubic foot box which holds 32 quart containers which will be picked up quarterly at a cost of \$300 a year. Anita said she also contacted Stericycle and was given a quote of \$720. Greenbaum stated he thought New England MedWaste's price is very reasonable and the Board was in agreement to hire New England MedWaste. Anita told the Board that the vaccination rate for Covid-19 in Massachusetts is below 7% and the influenza vaccination rate is below 17%. Anita said speaking specifically to our numbers here to hold a flu clinic for seniors, the numbers were also very low. Anita said the COA reached out to seniors to see if there was interest in flu shots and there were 18 responses and 11 seniors said yes to getting their flu shot in Groveland. Rosemary told the Board that she learned today that the DPH is offering a mobile clinic for Covid-19 and flu vaccinations with a minimum of 25 people. Rosemary said they are offering vaccinations to the general public. Stepanian said he thought that was great and he didn't feel we would have a problem getting 25 people. Greenbaum said he would like Anita to find out exactly what the DPH mobile clinic is offering and if it is from soup to nuts, he would like to do it. The Board agreed.

Next on the agenda is health agent update. Rosemary told the Board that Lori and I have been working on updating Board of Health applications because many of them have been around for a long time and are outdated. We have updated the application for perc testing and for recreational camps. Rosemary said there are copies in your packets for your review. Lori said she also drafted a Board of Health meeting notice instead of using the generic notice that the Town Clerk offers. Rosemary said September was extremely busy for her, she had over 30 septic system inspections and 12 plan reviews. Stepanian asked Rosemary when the cut off is for installing septic systems. Rosemary said it is dependent upon the weather but probably December 1st. Rosemary said she learned that the DPH was offering free iHealth Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test kits again so she placed an order and we just received 6 cases. There are 36 boxes in each case and each box contains 5 tests which expire on 1/7/24. Rosemary said Lori gave the COA a case and gave a box to all employees in town hall. Rosemary said she will check with the police and fire departments to see if they need any. Rosemary said we have had many seniors coming in the office asking for them. Lori said the seniors are very grateful that we have them because the test kits cost more than \$20 at CVS

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and Walgreens. Rosemary told the Board that she thinks we should increase some of our food establishment fees. Greenbaum asked Rosemary to do an assessment of all the food establishment permits as to what the fees are now and your recommendation as to what they should be and present your recommendation to the Board to review at the next meeting.

Next agenda item is to review minutes for approval. Stepanian made a motion to approve meeting minutes of August 24, 2023, Collins seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned: 7:42 PM

Next Board of Health meeting will be scheduled as needed
Meeting minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst
Board of Health approved minutes 12/28/23