

TOWN OF GROVELAND

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 28, 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 196 Center St., 1 variance request. Aleksandr Chongris, PE, Chongris Engineering, 256 Beacon St., Andover, MA was not available to attend this meeting. Rosemary said she would explain the variance request to the Board. Rosemary said this is a three (3) bedroom dwelling and the present system is in failure. Rosemary said it will be replaced with a Presby Advanced Enviro-Septic system which includes a two compartment 1,500 gallon tank and a pump chamber. Rosemary said the engineer is asking for a two foot separation to groundwater. Stepanian asked if there are any wetlands to be concerned about and Rosemary said there are no wetlands.

The variance request is;

- 1.) A LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVAL IS REQUESTED TO REDUCE THE GROUNDWATER OFFSET FROM 4' TO 2' IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 21-CLM-000073-APP.

Stepanian made a motion to approve one (1) variance request for 196 Center St., Collins seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Second on the agenda is public health nurse update. Anita told the Board it has been very quiet the past few weeks. Anita said the sharps disposal program is going very well. We have had one collection and Anita said she enjoys working with MedWaste because they provide high quality customer service. Anita told the Board that reportable diseases are low except for influenza which is problematic for the state right now. Anita said for the month of December 16.7% of all ER visits were for acute respiratory illnesses. Anita said that 18.2% of 20,000 hospital admissions are respiratory infection and most of those are pediatric RSV. Anita said the Covid death rate has been stable in Massachusetts about 24 people a week and 1,000 people a month countrywide. Covid cases this

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week in the US are 4,811. Anita told the Board that vaccination rates in Massachusetts are very low, Covid is 18.1% and influenza is 36.8%. Anita told the Board that she received notification to register in the DPH/BU School of Public Health TRAIN Mass program.

Third on the agenda is health agent update. Rosemary said this time of the year septic system have slowed down a bit. Rosemary said since our last meeting there have been 21 septic system installations, she has reviewed 11 septic system plans, she has performed 4 soil tests. Rosemary said she has also attended many meetings for the PHE Grant and provided updates to David, Region 3A Coalition and DPH. Greenbaum told Rosemary that once the IMA is finalized, he will ask to be placed on the Selectmen's agenda to explain the benefits of the PHE Grant at no cost to the town. Greenbaum asked Rosemary for an update on Your Place and Ours. Rosemary said the new owners are planning on opening a Mexican restaurant and she has scheduled an inspection for next Wednesday. Greenbaum said there is also a new owner of Pub 97 who will officially take ownership on Tuesday. Rosemary said she plans on doing an inspection there, as well.

Next on the agenda is review minutes for approval. Collins made a motion to approve meeting minutes of October 26, 2023, Stepanian seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Last on the agenda is FY2025 health department budget. Lori told the Board that she completed the budget, she drafted a cover letter, mission statement, department goals and requested \$300 on the ClearGov spreadsheet for our expenses to pay New England MedWaste for syringe/needle disposal. Lori told the Board that she couldn't increase employee salaries on the spreadsheet because existing salaries were locked in and could not be adjusted. Greenbaum said everything looked good with the exception of he would like to request \$3,000 for expenses for associated costs for the public health nurse to hold a vaccination clinic. The Board agreed and asked Lori to make the revision to the FY2025 budget.

Meeting adjourned: 7:44 PM

Next Board of Health meeting will be scheduled as needed
Meeting minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst
Board of Health approved minutes 3/14/24