

ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES



JULY 22, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Emmons (Chairman)

Gerhard Heinrich

Marilyn Hotch

Jonathan Bosworth

Doug Miller (Associate)

STAFF PRESENT: Doug Halley (Health Director)

Sheryl Howe

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Alexy

Nancy & Kevin Daigle

Flourine Sprague

Phil Sullivan

Joe Aldwinckle

Edwin Williams, Jr.

Ian Rubin

Steve Calichman

Meeting opened at 7:35 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Mr. Bosworth, seconded by Ms. Hotch, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of June 24, 1991.

On a motion made by Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Mr. Bosworth, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of July 8, 1991.

VOTE FOR NEW CHAIRMAN:

On a motion made by Mr. Hotch, seconded by Mr. Emmons, the Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Bosworth as chairman effective the first meeting in August. Mr. Bosworth accepted the nomination of chairman.

APPROVAL OF GEO-THERMAL HEAT PUMP AT LOT 37A STONEYMEADE:

Mr. Alexy, owner of lot 37A Stoneymeade seeks approval to install a geo-thermal heat pump below the proposed septic system. Mr. Halley consulted D.E.P. and it was their opinion that this type of request requires a variance from 310 CMR 15.03: (7) Distances (1)(2). The heat pump system is a closed loop system which will not need make-up water. The proposed heat pump system will need approximately 80 gallons of water. Mr. Alexy feels that the pump will allow heat to be pulled from the ground,

thereby minimizing the need for heat from oil or gas. The Health Department recommends this variance from State Regulations, 310 CMR 15.03: (7) Distances (1)(2) to allow the placement of heat pump lines underneath the septic system at Lot 37A Stoneymeade Way. The D.E.P. will have final approval of this variance.

On a motion made by Ms. Hotch, seconded by Mr. Heinrich, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance from 310 CMR 15.03: (7) Distances (1)(2) to allow the placement of heat pump lines underneath the septic system at Lot 37A Stoneymeade Way with the following conditions:

1. The earth energy heat pump system shall contain no more than 100 gallons.
2. The integrity of the heat pump system shall be inspected annually with certification given to the Board of Health.
3. The septic system shall be pumped and inspected annually by a licensed contractor with certification given to the Board of Health.
4. That the Health Department be notified if the heat pump water system is ever recharged.
5. There shall be no permanent connection to domestic water.

140 CENTRAL STREET - SPECIAL PERMIT:

The owners of 140 Central Street seek a special permit for work in an aquifer. The site is located in Zone 3 of the aquifer and the nearest town well is approximately 6,000 feet. The proposed system will be pressure dosed. The percolation rate was two (2) minutes per inch.

On a motion made by Ms. Hotch, seconded by Mr. Bosworth, the Board unanimously voted to grant a special permit to 140 Central Street with the following conditions:

1. No underground fuel storage tanks shall be permitted on the site.
2. Septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every two years.
3. The site shall fully conform to the Town of Acton Hazardous Materials Control Bylaw.
4. The sewage disposal system for the building at this site shall be approved by Acton Board of Health staff.
5. Leaching facility shall be designed and installed with pressure dosing of the system, said pressure dosing to be designed in accordance with State Environmental Code.
6. Sewage disposal system shall be a minimum 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands.
7. Floor drains are not permitted.

152 WILLOW STREET - SPECIAL PERMIT:

The owners of 152 Willow Street seek a special permit for work in an aquifer. The site is located in Zone 3 of the aquifer and is located approximately 6,000 feet from the nearest municipal well. The proposed system will be pressure dosed.

On a motion made by Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Ms. Hotch, the Board unanimously voted to grant a special permit to 152 Willow Street for construction of a septic system in the aquifer with the following conditions:

1. No underground fuel storage tanks shall be permitted on the site.
2. Septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every two years.
3. The site shall fully conform to the Town of Acton Hazardous Materials Control Bylaw.
4. The sewage disposal system for the proposed building at this site shall be approved by Acton Board of Health staff.
5. Leaching facility shall be designed and installed with pressure dosing of the system, said pressure dosing to be designed in accordance with State Environmental Code.
6. Sewage disposal system shall be a minimum 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands.
7. Floor drains are not permitted.

929 MAIN STREET - HEARING REQUEST:

Ms. Flourine Sprague of 3 North Street has requested a hearing before the Board of Health in regards to the reconstruction of a septic system at 929 Main Street. Ms. Sprague's concern is that her well is approximately 50 feet from the proposed septic system at 929 Main Street. Ms. Sprague's septic system is closer than 50 feet to her own well. This area of town utilized private wells until the Water District sank the Marshall Well and

severely dried up the existing private wells. In exchange, the Water District provided all homes access to its water supply. The Health Department feels that when hookup to Water District water was provided, the existing wells were abandoned.

Mr. Halley consulted with D.E.P. regarding this matter and it was the opinion of that office that an abandoned well no longer has a protection status under Title 5. The Sprague's have not requested to the Board to utilize a private well in a public water supply area. The Board usually grants approval for a private well in a public water supply area when the well is used for irrigation purposes and if it is a bedrock well.

Mr. Aldwinckle, of 4 North Street, was present before the Board to voice his concerns. Mr. Aldwinckle feels that when the Water District sank the Marshall Well, area residents were forced to hook-up to Water District water because they had no choice. Mr. Aldwinckle feels strongly about having his well classified as abandoned. The Board suggested that an alternative would be to abandon all wells in that area for drinking water purposes only and to allow the utilization of the existing grandfathered wells for irrigation and accessory purposes only. The Health Department, however, is concerned with the lack of water quality testing of these wells. Acton rules and regulations require that wells be tested once yearly for bacteriological purposes and once every three years for chemical testing. In the past when the Board has granted a variance for a well to be used for irrigation purposes only, the Board has imposed the condition that the well be tested as if it were a drinking water well.

PROPOSED SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTOR REGULATIONS:

Mr. Halley presented the Board with some recommendations for the amendments of the Septic System Inspector regulations. The Board feels it is important to clarify the existing regulations. The Board discussed Mr. Halley's recommendations and added their own comments. The Board discussed rationale for when systems are deemed to be in failure. The Board also discussed what an inspection should entail. Lastly, the Board stated that a new regulation should be implemented that states that any inspector who deems a system in failure will not be allowed to repair or reconstruct the system.

LOT 14 & 41 STONEYMEADE WAY - VARIANCE FOR EXCESSIVE PERCOLATION RATES:

The owners of lots 14 & 41 Stoneymeade Way seek a variance for excessive percolation rates. The percolation rate for Lot 14 was just over 21 minutes per inch and the proposed system has been designed for a 25 minutes per inch perc rate. The percolation rate for Lot 41 was 29.3 minutes per inch and the proposed system has been designed for 30 minutes per inch. Both systems have been designed in the best area suitable for a septic system.

On a motion made by Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Ms. Hotch, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance from Acton rules and regulations 11-15.1 for construction of a septic system at lot 41 Stoneymeade Way with a percolation rate over 20 minutes per inch, in accordance with plan submitted by Lancewood Engineering on July 17, 1991.

On a motion made by Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Mr. Bosworth, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance for a percolation rate over 20 minutes per inch to Lot 14 Stoneymeade Way with the condition that the system be 30% larger than Title 5 requirements and meets approval with the Health Department staff.

On a motion made by Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Ms. Hotch, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 12, 1991 in Room 126 of the Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. The following meeting will be held on August 26, 1991 at the town hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Howe

Signed and Approved,

Jonathan Bosworth

Jonathan Bosworth, Chairman