

TOWN OF ACTON
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
June 24, 1986

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Present: Dan Costello, Richard Stephens, Charlotte Sagoff, Eleanor Voorhies, Associate Member Dick Oakley. Staff- Steve Calichman, Marion Donahue, Denise Lukacz.
Absent: George Emmons, Ed Wirtanen

The meeting began at 8:00 p.m.

The Board reviewed and revised the minutes from the May 21 and June 10 Board of Health meetings. Mrs. Sagoff moved to accept the May 21 minutes and Mrs. Voorhies seconded. Mr. Stephens moved to accept the June 10 minutes, Ms. Voorhies seconded. Mr. Stephens took a minute to say that the June 10 minutes were the nicest minutes that he had seen in a long time. The Board agreed!

8:18

Mrs. Sagoff moved to take care of the issue at this time that Priscilla Greene was presenting to the Board; Mrs. Voorhies seconded.

Mrs. Greene presented to the Board a possible merger of the Public Health Nurses with the Nashoba Nursing Service. The Board discussed in length, the advantages and disadvantages of merging in with a nursing service. Mr. Costello does not know who is to make the decision, and the Board wonders whether or not this issue should be brought before the Board of Health or some other Board before any decision can be made. Therefore, an evaluation of other options should be included.

Mrs. Greene informed the Board that the Professional Advisory Board highly recommends the merger; but will be asked to evaluate other options.

9:05

Peter Bemis-Kay Company, John Guterston and Ed Duncan - Data Instruments, David Gordon - Gordon Associates, were all present before the Board.

Peter Bemis began by stating that the request made by Dan Costello at the previous meeting to raise the dike's height would pose a hazardous condition for the truck driver/loader. He explained that the new height would weaken the structure. Instead, he explained, they will put a guardrail around the dike and there will be a curb before the dike. The Board questioned whether the rails would be a sufficient barrier. These safeguards, Mr. Bemis explained, should be sufficient enough.

The Anhydrous Ammonia tank was discussed first. Mr. Stephens was highly concerned about the following: What impact the Anhydrous Ammonia would have on AIR and WATER if it were to leak; if there was a truck accident backing into the tank; and if there was ever a fire. Mr. Gordon responded to Mr. Stephens questions.

Mr. Gordon came prepared with research on the environmental effects of Anhydrous Ammonia. He explained that if there were to be a catastrophic leakage, residents would know it, because the ammonia smell wouldn't be pleasant to breathe. He said that the ammonia would only be an irritant, but could cause injury to the nasal membrane if the concentration was high enough and there was a lengthy time of contact. He used an example of 2,000 parts per million would be a significant concentration over a 2 minute period.

Mr. Gordon explained that dissolved ammonia once it hit the ground would evaporate and not penetrate into the ground water. Mr. Stephens questioned the idea of a sprinkler system, and the fact that the water would dilute the ammonia and render it unharful, but he wondered if this concentration would contaminate the ground water. Mr. Stephens suggested the idea of an underground tank with a vault, for protection from fire, and wondered if that would be applicable. Mr. Borden said he would prefer Anhydrous Ammonia to be above ground, because of pressure control. His feelings towards an Anhydrous Ammonia tank were that he would like to see it in a double walled tank instead of a single wall as planned. Answering the question from Mr. Costello as to whether or not it would be appropriate to put this tank underground, Mr. Borden stated that liquid refrigerants are not commonly put underground.

Mr. Bemis interjected that Capt. Craig from the Acton Fire Department found this tank unlikely to be a fire hazard.

Concerning the protection of neighboring residents, Mr. Stephens listed the options:

1. Put the tank into a subsurface tank.
2. A sprinkler or other control system.
3. Any other ways to protect if there were a catastrophic release.
4. Reduce concentration by requesting a smaller tank.

Numbers 1 and 2 are out because of previous discussion conclusions. Mr. Gordon explained further the concentration effects, which prompted Mr. Stephens to suggest the tanks be at least 600 feet away from residential areas. In explanation, Mr. Gordon stated that a concentration of 5,000 to 10,000 parts per million is fatal, 2,500 - 6,000 parts per million for 30 minutes is dangerous, below 2,500 parts per million for a short period is all right, and that 1,000 parts per million for 3 hours is toxic. Again, one won't want to breathe in ammonia because it is unpleasant and a signal as to leakage, whereas some other toxic gases do not have an odor.

Mr. Bemis et al will be submitting an in-depth report on the issues of questions covered at tonight's meeting, at a future date.

Mrs. Voorhies asked how often the tank would be filled. Mr. Duncan answered her, stating that the tank would be filled every three weeks. The discussion then moved on to the DM solvent tank. Again, Mr. Stephens' concerns were to the effects of a release into the air and water, and if there were a fire.

Mr. Gordon explained that if there was to be a release, the solvent would collect in the dike, and evaporate. This is a non-flammable solvent. Mr. Stephens wondered about the concentration effect to the nearest resident. Mr. Gordon estimated it would be about 70 parts per million. Mr. Stephens concluded then that the loss into the air would not be a hazard. Mr. Stephens again questioned the chance of the solvent going into the groundwater. Mr. Gordon stated that the solvent would just sink to the bottom of water. Mr. Stephens wondered how safe the dike would be in holding the solvent; Mr. Gordon feels it will be very safe. Mr. Stephens recommended that there be special firefighting procedures in case of fire, as a precaution for the Fire Department.

These two solvents are necessary for Data Instruments. Mr. Stephens feels strongly that the employees who will be working with these chemicals be knowledgeable about them through training and that there be a chemical response team.

Mr. Costello concluded the discussion by reiterating the written report that Mr. Bemis is to submit to the Board for further review and the issue will be taken under advisement.

10:24 Funds

At this time, Mrs. Sagoff suggested the Board take care of the encumbrance of funds for water testing. Mr. Costello replied that it was already taken care of.

10:25 Correspondence.

A. W.R. Grace - memo from Steven D. Anderson - information only. The Board discussed who is responsible for getting information straight on what W.R. Grace is doing. To clarify it, Mr. Calichman is the person responsible.

B. Petition for a Special Permit - Board of Appeals - Assabet River. The Board also feels Acton should run the same analysis tests as were conducted for the Maynard sludge issue. Mr. Calichman was appointed to run an analysis and write a letter to the Board of Appeals. He wondered what constituents they want to remove.

C. Pesticide Alert - information only, Mrs. Sagoff will comment on this issue at a future date.

New Correspondence.

1. Short Course at Harvard University - information only.
2. Capital Project Request - Mr. Costello requested a computer.
3. IDC on Day Care Center. Across from High School - information only.
4. Note from James W. Igoe, Deputy Secretary of State - note to B.J. Welborn - Information only.

Mr. Calichman took this time to thank Nancy Tavernier for her services in helping the Board with the letters for the Abutters of Kelley's Corner.

5. Mr. Emmons's package concerning Kelley's Corner - the Board reviewed the package, and compiled a letter for the Abutters of Kelley's Corner, stating when the meeting (open hearing) will take place - July 8, 1986 at 7:30 p.m.

*Further testing at Kelley's Corner. Mr. Calichman informed the Board that the staff checked the cost of testing the water, and the bill came to \$420.00 which was encumbered by the Board of Health. The Board of Selectman voted we encumber new funds. Mrs. Donahue told the Board that the Selectmen would like the testing to be done before July 8, 1986. A detailed look at Kelley's Corner is needed to decide where the testing should be done. Ms Voorhies alerted the Board that there was a pungent odor that day, when she drove through Kelley's Corner, especially near the Sunoco. Mrs. Donahue alerted the Board that if they want the results by the next meeting, they should have the testing completed by July 2.

*Redstone Condominium and School Property. From what the Board could see, Redstone has not discussed with the School Board a possible solution in using the school property. Mr. Costello suggested that the Board contact, in writing, Redstone and have them come in and talk before the Board. Mrs. Sagoff will write the letter.

Mr. Costello asked Mr. Calichman if it is feasible to use the school property. Mr. Calichman answered by saying that if they don't have ledge problem, it is possible to construct a new system, but he has no conclusion. Mr. Costello noted that Mr. Calichman has to determine if this land is feasible to use. Mr. Calichman discussed the possibilities-if there is enough land area, enough depth over ledge, and a perk rate, they may be able to construct a new system. Mr. Costello requested that Redstone be pursued in order to get them to answer the Board's questions.

6.) Surface Water Testing- Morrell Associates Memo- Information Only

7.) Variance Request for Title 5 from Glen Nichols for 32 Pope Rd., Acton-
Mrs. Sagoff wondered if he was allowed to get a variance. Mr. Calichman remarked that the owner's system had failed. Mr. Costello wondered about the owner's authorization, and whether or not the variance should come before the Board without the owner's authorization.

Mr. Calichman suggested a perc test be done. Ms. Voorhies wondered if the perc test came out alright, would he be able to be permitted a variance. Mr. Stephens moved to grant the variance subject to review of the perc test, Ms. Voorhies seconded. The Board voted 3-0 (Mrs. Sagoff abstained)

11:20 New Business

Mrs. Sagoff asked that the Board address the Septic Maintenance, but it had already been addressed.

At this time Mr. Costello discussed preparation of the July 8 meeting. The Board will meet on July 1 to discuss the meeting. This meeting will deal only with Kelley's Corner.

Mrs. Donahue presented to the Board the Excedrin Recalls. News from the State Department of Health stated that Massachusetts had been sent the questioned lot number and expiration date capsules. Through her phone calls, Mrs. Donahue found two stores which had received the lot number and expiration date.

Mr. Calichman informed the Board of the new office number (264-9634).

Mr. Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Voorhies seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise Lukacz
M. Denise Lukacz, Secretary

Signed and Approved

Daniel Costello
Daniel Costello, Chairman

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unlikely and that the purpose of the temporary restriction was to allow the various Town boards time to change zoning or other development plans which were not consistent with aquifer protection. The Board thanks Mrs. Hunter for her participation.

Next, the Board took up the license application of Linda Arenda. Ms Arenda is required to be licensed by the local Board of Health to give massages in the Town in which she practices. The Board has provisions in its regulations for such a license but this was the first such application the Board had been requested to approve. Initial discussion regarded the Board's authority and procedures. The Board was also concerned about health risks to the clientele.

Mr. Calichman introduced Ms Arenda to the Board at this time. He told her she was the first applicant we had considered and complimented her on the thoroughness of her application. Ms Arenda described the types of massage she practised and the training she had received, which was through personal instruction and experience. Ms Arenda was aware of schools available for massage but she had not formally attended any of these. Mrs. Nawrocki asked about liability insurance. Ms Arenda was not aware of the need and said she would look into it. The Board then discussed the facilities Ms Arenda intended to use. This was to be sharing of use with a local beautician such that Ms Arenda would practice massage on those days that the beauty shop was closed.

Finally, the Board discussed with Ms Arenda her approach to clients' treatment. It was clear from the discussion that much of her work was understanding clients and trying to relate to specific tension. Ms Arenda stated that her practice would include many clients who would see her on a regular basis.

The Board thanked Ms Arenda for coming in, and advised her that references would be checked in the following week. The Board further discussed the requirements for a license after Ms Arenda had left and directed the Director to issue a license if references were in order. Although the Board was concerned about Ms Arenda's lack of formal training, it believed a license was in order because of the length of experience and informal training the applicant had and because of the strongly favorable personal references that had been submitted.

Because of the late hour, Mrs. Nawrocki moved to adjourn. Mr. Stephens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Signed and approved,


Daniel Costello
Daniel Costello, Chairman

Board of Health Meeting
March 6, 1984

This meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Department of Public Works Building on Forest Road. Members Daniel Costello, Richard Stephens, and Sandra Nawrocki were present.

The Board began the meeting by reviewing minutes of previous meetings. Mr. Stephens moved to accept the minutes of February 14, 1984 as corrected. Mrs. Nawrocki seconded. The motion passed 3-0. The Board then considered the minutes of February 15, 1984. After discussion, Mr. Stephens moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Mrs. Nawrocki seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board then took up the matter of a proposed community swimming pond in North Acton. Mr. Calichman introduced the Board to Mrs. Vanetta Hunter, speaking for the Acton Recreation Commission. Mrs. Hunter was planning to present to Town Meeting a proposal for the Town to purchase and develop land in North Acton as a community swimming pond. She had asked for the Board to review the proposal and comment from a Health perspective on the viability of the proposed project. The primary concern raised by the Board was what impact the development might have on the North Acton Aquifer, particularly in view of the Water District's plans for a new well in this area and the current BoH Temporary Aquifer Protection Regulation which would prohibit development in any property marked as "red" (well buffer area) on the Lycott maps.

Mr. Stephens pointed out that the large removal of gravel to create the pond would further expose the aquifer to potential contamination. Mrs. Nawrocki was concerned about chemicals which might be necessary to control vegetation in order to preserve the swimming area. Mr. Costello thought vegetation would be better controlled by dredging during the winter but he expressed concern regarding DEQE concurrence. The Board expressed its concern that because of the project's location in a red zone, there would be many restrictions on the site and development, even by the Town itself, would not be easy. Mrs. Hunter suggested that the pond would be much safer than the industry for which the property was currently zoned. The Board members explained that industrialization was highly