

Town Clerk

ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 1986

RECEIVED & FILED
DATE Jan. 29, 1987
C. O. Huber
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Present: Daniel Costello, Chairman; Charlotte Sagoff, Eleanor Voorhies, Richard Stephens, Associate member Richard Oakley. Staff present were Acting Director Deborah Robertson, Sanitarians Edward Wirtanen and Marion Donahue, and secretary Carol Holley.

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. with a review of minutes of the previous meeting. Mrs. Sagoff moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Miss Voorhies seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Correspondence was reviewed. Regarding a memorandum on landbanking, Mrs. Sagoff stated that Conservation Commissioner Doug Halley was "just great." Regarding correspondence on styrene tanks at Grace, Mr. Costello recommended to staff that periodic testing at the site be done. Regarding the tank closures in general, it was remembered that the Board of Health told Grace over a year ago to remove said tanks.

A memorandum regarding the proposed wine and cheese shop at Acton Woods mall was reviewed. It was stated that the water usage does not fall within the limits of the design criteria for the septic system for the shopping center. The figures were explained to the Board by Mrs. Robertson.

A publication on underground tanks was reviewed. Mr. Costello stated that notice should be sent to the Fire Department that the Board of Health requires secondary containment for underground storage tanks.

7:55 p.m. L&S Construction, Special permits. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted for lots 6 & 7 Ayer Road, subject to conditions numbered 1, 2 (pumping every 2 years), 3, 4, 5 and 7. The motion was seconded by Miss Voorhies, and unanimously carried. Mr. Stephens stated that this process of granting special permits has become so routine that the Board should amend Article 11 of its regulations regarding special permits.

7:58 p.m. Martinizing Dry Cleaning, Great Road. Mr. Stephens explained the technical aspects of the dry cleaning business to the Board. He stated that this particular operation had a machine that did not require venting, and that the individuals involved were aware that they were dealing with hazardous materials. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted subject to the conditions that (1) no underground fuel or solvent storage tanks be on the site, (2) the site will conform to the hazardous materials bylaw of the Town of Acton, (3) floor cleaning procedures for the buildings will use only non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning compounds, (4) floor drains are not permitted, and if there are pre-existing floor drains, any solvent-containing equipment must be diked away from the drain. Miss Voorhies seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

8:02 Request for Variance, Sawyer, Durkee Road. There was a problem with the perc rate on this repair. Mr. Costello requested that this matter be looked into further to see if the system could be placed elsewhere on the site. Miss Voorhies moved to table. Mrs. Robertson mentioned EPA design criteria to be applied to perc rates between 30 and 120 minutes per inch. The Board agreed this criterion was appropriate for repairs. Unanimous to table.

8:06 p.m. Foster Masonry; underground storage tanks. Mrs. Robertson stated that no new information other than two industrial brochures had been provided the staff. Mr. Stephens suggested that a concrete vault be used as secondary containment around the tanks in question. Mrs. Sagoff asked if it were proper for vaulted tanks to be placed side-by-side, to which the answer was yes. Mrs. Sagoff moved that the installation be done with secondary containment. Eleanor Voorhies seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

8:17. Groundwater. Mrs. Robertson introduced Mr. Wirtanen's IDC regarding the use of curtain drains to lower groundwater table. Mr. Costello expressed concern that septic system designers and not hydrogeologists were designing systems using these drains, and stated that he would look into this matter further. Mrs. Robertson then introduced the proposed information sheet for distribution to contractors and engineers. Mrs. Sagoff asked how it was different from earlier remarks. Mrs. Robertson stated that the staff was attempting to notify contractors of policies before the groundwater season this year. The Board of Health approved the memo. Mrs. Robertson then explained the proposed amendments to the Board of Health regulations regarding groundwater testing. Mr. Costello asked about the comments regarding a performance bond. It was agreed that this paragraph was improper, and should be eliminated. Mrs. Sagoff moved to accept Mr. Wirtanen's discussion of groundwater testing and to direct that it be sent out; Miss Voorhies seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Mrs. Robertson stated that the new information would be sent to the Beacon. Mr. Stephens moved that the regulations be amended per Mrs. Robertson's suggestion. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

8:35 Mr. David Bigelow, Service Station Management Corp. arrived. The decision regarding the Foster Masonry tanks was relayed to him by the Board. He requested written notification for presentation to his clients.

8:40 Discussion of request for variances from Stamski & McNary regarding Acton Christian Church, 41 Minot Ave.. Mrs. Robertson stated that there had been some large time gaps in the review of the proposed repair plan. She discussed the variances involved. Mr. Wirtanen discussed the history of the area and the problem with high groundwater. Mrs. Robertson suggested that before a variance to Title 5 for depth of pervious material be granted, another test hole be dug in an attempt to find an area with proper depth. Mr. Stephens affirmed the Board's overall approval of this project but moved to table the motion pending further testing. Mrs. Sagoff seconded; all voted in favor. Mr. Costello queried regarding the referencing of USGS elevations in the area.

8:56 138 Great Road, review of Conservation Commission Order of Conditions. Mr. Stephens moved that the application for 138 Great Road before the Board be denied because the site is in a red zone of the Board of Health Temporary Aquifer Protection Regulations. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. Mr. Costello advised that AWD had requested that aquifer protection areas be revised and that the CWPCC was reviewing same. Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Sagoff voted in favor. Miss Voorhies abstained, and Mr. Costello voted against. The motion did not carry. The Lycott map was reviewed. The differences of opinion of the various town agencies was discussed. Mr. Stephens moved to reconsider the motion. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. Vote to reconsider unanimous. On a second vote, the motion to deny this permit carried.

9:09 Mr. Bill Reisman from the Acton Christian Church came before the Board. Mr. Stamski, the engineer, had not yet arrived. The Board explained their decision and the reason for it and stated that abutters need not be renotified when the variance request is reviewed at a future meeting.

9:12 p.m. Review of correspondence from Redstone Condominiums, old business. Staff was requested to contact Redstone and ask them to engage an engineer to meet with the Board of Health.

9:14 p.m. Wine and cheese shop, old business. The design flow of the septic system was discussed, as well as the statement of the selectmen limiting the type of operations at the area. Mr. Stephens moved that the occupancy be accepted as proposed, but that a letter to the management of the shopping center be sent reprimanding them for not complying with the conditions, due to the impact on the septic system. Miss Voorhies seconded. Mr. Stephens and Miss Voorhies voted for, Mr. Costello voted against, Mrs. Sagoff abstained. A new motion to refer the permit application to staff for further evaluation was made by Mrs. Sagoff, seconded by Miss Voorhies, and all voted in favor.

9:35 Mr. Costello requested the Board members to consider the upcoming Town Meeting and the Treatment Plant article, along with the extension of the proposed sewer to Kelley's Corner. He asked what action the Board would take should both articles fail. Does the Board wish to request DEQE to direct the town to construct a sewer system and treatment plant?

9:45 Bruce Stamski arrived and was told the Church's request for a variance had been tabled pending further information. Mr. Stamski expressed frustration and anger at this development.


9:48 Review of Nursing Service budget. Mr. Stephens requested more data.

9:50 Staffing needs discussed. The workload of current staff, and the possible need for more personnel was discussed. Mrs. Robertson stated she would withhold comment until she became more acclimated in her new position.


9:55 Mr. Stephens stated that the Nursing Service needed more computer training. Mrs. Sagoff asked where they were to receive the training. Mr. Stephens stated that another possibility was to hire a new bookkeeper who already had computer training. The future of the nursing service was discussed briefly. Mr. Costello requested the report from the Professional Advisory Committee regarding the future of the APHNS.

There being no further business before the Board, at 10:05 Mrs. Sagoff moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,


Carol Holley, Sec'y

Signed and Approved,


Daniel Costello, Chairman