

ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 21, 1987

RECEIVED & FILED

DATE July 6, 1987

Barbara Brown  
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

The meeting opened at 7:25 p.m. Board members present were Daniel Costello, Charlotte Sagoff and Richard Stephens. Staff present were Edward Wirtanen and Carol Holley.

7:30 p.m. Mr. Stephens moved that the minutes of the March 24, 1987 meeting be accepted as corrected, with no note of the wastewater district map. Mrs. Sagoff seconded; all voted in favor.

Minutes of executive session of April 14 were then reviewed. Mr. Stephens moved that these minutes be accepted as corrected. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. All voted in favor.

A review of correspondence followed. Mr. Stephens, upon reading a memorandum from Interim Health Director Eric Durling, moved that a communique be sent to Mr. Durling that no consensus regarding the wastewater districts currently exists.

During a review of a memorandum on pumping slips, staff asked the Board if it were necessary to obtain a permit to perform peroxide treatments on residential systems if said treatments were performed by a licensed septic pumper. At the moment, only notification and approval are required. Mr. Wirtanen noted that Mr. Calichman only wished to be notified, especially when a private water supply was involved, as well water could be contaminated. It was noted that acid and caustic soda treatments were no longer permitted by the Board of Health, and they were not considered to be effective. Mr. Wirtanen noted the change in certain procedures as the Board of Health became more and more aware of and involved with groundwater quality. Mr. Costello opined that it would be helpful to indicate on pump slips how much hydrogen peroxide was actually used in a treatment. Mr. Wirtanen stated that staff would be drawing up guidelines for such treatments. Mrs. Sagoff noted that it might be helpful to have the pumper indicate the location of the septic tank in relation to the building on the pump slips, as the Board is attempting to consolidate and update records, for at least the next two years which would represent the first cycle of the Septage Management Program. The exact nature of pump slips was left to staff to wrestle with.

Regarding correspondence on hazardous material sites, staff was asked who the current hazardous material coordinator was. Mr. Wirtanen responded that several individuals in different departments were currently involved with the issue of hazardous materials.

The Board acknowledged the presence of the Parker Village order letter in their packet and offered no further discussion.

Correspondence directed to Mr. Silman at Redstone condominiums was reviewed. Mr. Wirtanen expressed belief that exploratory discussions with the school department had been held. It was observed that the emergency interceptor drain had not fulfilled its mission in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Costello requested a progress report to be submitted to Board members in their next packets.

7:47 p.m. Charlotte Sagoff, Board of Health member and Chairperson of the Health Effects Subcommittee, on the Grace Closure plan. The Selectmen had, some weeks ago, proposed to their attorney Steven Anderson that the Town sue Grace because they are refusing to do the right thing vis-a-vis the hazardous waste in Acton. Mrs. Sagoff noted the high quality of the Goldberg-Zoino review of the Grace plan. Currently, Grace wishes to cap, not encapsulate or remove. It is felt that the materials should be removed because their report fails to provide a good analysis. It is believed that there will be 70,000 gallons of pore water, all contaminated with hazardous materials, released. Grace is proposing only to utilize aeration towers for a few years, after which the matter will be left to Acton. Mrs. Sagoff simply wished to make a statement from the Board of Health to the Board of Selectmen, and moved to state that the Board of Health supports the actions of the Board of Selectmen on the possible legal action.

Mr. Stephens asked for further details on the matter. Mrs. Sagoff narrated how the Selectmen wished to sue Grace and EPA if the Grace closure plan was allowed. Mr. Costello noted that the Selectmen wish to have the material excised, per Goldberg Zoino recommendations. Mrs. Sagoff stated that EPA was not fighting Grace vigorously enough, and pointed out Goldberg Zoino's recommendations for a course of action. Mr. Stephens moved that the Board adopt the following resolution:

"The Board of Health believes strongly that contaminated soil at the WR Grace lagoon and landfill sites should be removed to a controlled landfill site and we unanimously concur with the Selectmen's objective of assuring such action, using court action if necessary."

Mrs. Sagoff seconded, and all vote in favor.

Mrs. Sagoff then reported on the activities of the Health Effects Subcommittee, noting that they had received grant monies from the Charles Mott Foundation to attend a conference in Galveston, Texas on investigation of health hazards by non-professionals. They are also getting \$2,000 in grant funds for their prototype health effects study. The way to handle these monies was discussed, and Mrs. Sagoff will be speaking to Town Manager about this. Mr. Stephens moved to approve the work of the Health Effects Subcommittee. Mrs. Sagoff expressed appreciation of the help of the Acton Water District, noting that they were supplying computer modelling for the study. Upon query by Mr. Costello, Mrs. Sagoff stated that she, Bob Eisengrein, and Sue Appel were the contingent to Texas, going on May 15-16. She also related the grantsmanship efforts she had expended, and stated she was currently pressuring DEQE for funds, who were trying to wait for federal monies before committing any funding to the Subcommittee study.

8:05 Steve Badger, regarding reduction of reporting requirements for Yankee Village Treatment Plant. Mr. Badger noted that the average daily flow for this treatment plant is 10,000 gallons less than the DEQE requirement for a discharge permit. The peak flow at this plant, in the recent wet period, has been 8,000 gallons per day. Mr. Wittenen and Mr. Badger have both spoken to Mr. McCoy at DEQE regarding reduction in reporting requirements from monthly to quarterly. Mr. Badger noted that quarterly reporting was deemed adequate for the first two years, and then requirements had changed to monthly. The

Treatment plant has been functioning well. A small condominium association is involved, and the annual savings in the reporting would be \$4,400. The costs would be reduced by 2/3. Upon queries by Board members, Mr. Badger described the difference between the testing run by the reporting engineers (currently EJ Flynn) and the testing he did on a daily basis. He submitted a sample of his monthly report, and expressed a willingness to submit copies of these to the Health Department monthly. Mr. Costello requested a written proposal as to what testing and maintenance would be done on a daily basis. Exactly what was involved in daily maintenance was discussed. It was noted that the effluent is discharged via two leaching fields, which are alternated every other month. Mr. Costello expressed the opinion that, upon submission of a written proposal, the Board would probably approve the reduction of reporting requirements. Mr. Badger offered a copy of the contract with Yankee Village as a written proposal. This was considered acceptable. Mrs. Sagoff sought assurances that this reduction in requirements was not perpetual. After further discussion, it was decided that the matter would be tabled pending receipt of the written proposal.

8:19 Mr. Wirtanen related a corridor conversation he had held with Mr. Dunphy while the Board was speaking to Mr. Badger. It was observed that Mr. Dunphy had vanished. The damaging of a line out of the McDonald's building was briefly discussed, and it was noted that daily water usage was being monitored.

Mr. Wirtanen related that some progress had been made by Mr. Yetman in locating the Meineke Muffler septic system, but as the Board of Health had not been apprised of the goings on, there was not information officially on record.

A proposed revision of dumpster regulations was reviewed.

8:28 p.m. Carlos Davis, McDonald's

Mr. Davis submitted water meter readings at the restaurant. He noted that some low-flow toilets had been installed. The significance of the meter readings was discussed. The impact of a leaking water pipe leading to the outside of the store on the meter readings was discussed. It was stated that Mr. Dunphy was coordinating with ABC Cesspool to have readings taken at the septic tank. Mr. Davis would like to do some test borings in the area and construct a best case/ worst case condition analysis. Mr. David also noted that the daily water usage now indicated on the meter approximately equalled the amount being pumped, which should indicate that the fields are getting a rest. The issue of running into the K-Mart septic system, and the underground wiring for the parking lot lights while doing test borings was briefly broached. Upon query by Mr. Costello, Mr. Davis stated that the McDonald's system was of the aeration chamber design, and undersized by current criteria.

Mr. Stephens questioned the rights of McDonald's, as a tenant, to expand the septic system. Mr. Davis replied that this was currently being explored by real estate agents and counsel. Mr. Costello noted the apparent cooperation exhibited by McDonald's, and asked about grease removal. An extensive discussion on various methods of grease removal, the pro's and con's of each, were discussed. Mr. Davis submitted plans for a grease trap he would like to install. Mr. Costello asked about aeration turbines to separate out and cool grease. A dipper system inside the building was also discussed, as cosmetic companies would not buy grease that had been in wastewater tanks but there was a market for other grease. Centrifuge-type devices were also mentioned. Chilling the grease was also discussed. It was noted by Mr. Davis that a washing machine was in operation at McDonald's, for uniforms, towels, etc., and these items sometimes contained grease. He stated that non-emulsifying detergents had been explored at other McDonald's. The laundry wastewater by-passes the grease trap.

Mr. Davis noted that previous borings of the leaching area yielded the presence of sesame seeds.

Mr. Davis's discussion of the issues at McDonald's was ended without a motion by the Board, but it was confirmed that cooperation and progress was evident.

9:20 p.m. Request for variances, 124 Main Street, repair. Variances for this repair had been previously approved by the Board of Health, but were disapproved by the State. The septic system had been re-engineered to comply with DEQE priorities and was up for a second review. Mr. Stephens expressed concern that what was previously presented as a maximal design had been upgraded. It was noted that a trade-off between square footage and elevation above groundwater had been done, and it was a matter of prioritizing the criteria. The presence of a rare cucumber magnolia tree was given as a main issue in the design of the system. Mrs. Sagoff expressed a heartfelt desire to save the tree. It was again noted that this site is in the sewer district, and that the variances would be temporary pending construction of the sewer system. The Board unanimously voted to rescind the previously granted variances. The Board voted to grant the necessary variances, with the condition that they were temporary and the property would tie into the sewer system as soon as possible.

9:37 p.m. Nursing Service forms submitted for approval by Julia Stevens were reviewed. The Board had some difficulties with the telephone screening questionnaire for AIDS that was submitted, specifically the reference to safe sexual practices. Mr. Costello felt it was inappropriate to mention safe sexual practices as the only option, and suggested that saying "no" was an appropriate alternative as was developing and keeping a monogamous relationship. It was noted that the viral nomenclature in the minutes of the March 24 meeting should be changed from HTLVIII to HIVIII. Mr. Stephens asked what "no risk" meant, and how that could be determined. Standards of determining levels of risk were discussed, and it was agreed to contact Julia Stevens for clarification.

Stevens TUE 4/14/98

9:50 p.m. Mrs. Sagoff moved that Julia Stevens be authorized to sign payroll and approve disbursements for the Nursing Service. Mr. Stephens seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Costello signed a memorandum of authorization for submittal to the Town Accountant.

9:51 p.m. Request for Special Permit, Ethan Allen Drive, repair. This property lies in an aquifer protection area. Mr. Wirtanen noted that while the percolation test yielded rates of two minutes per inch or less, deep test holes revealed something of a natural filter medium below the sandy gravel layer. Therefore, it was his opinion that the pressure dosing/filter medium condition of a special permit was not applicable in this case. Mr. Stephens then moved that a special permit be granted subject to the conditions that there are no underground fuel storage tanks on site, the septic tank be pumped every two years, the site conform to the Acton Hazardous Material Control Bylaw, the sewage disposal system design is to be approved by Health Department staff, the septic system is to be installed, in the case of percolation rates of two minutes per inch or under, with pressure dosing or an intermediate filter layer with a percolation rate of 6 to 10 minutes per inch, and the sewage disposal system is to be a minimum 100 feet from floodplain and/or wetlands. Mrs. Sagoff seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

10:00 p.m. 8 Technology Drive, request for special permit. A discussion of the merits and lack thereof of siphon pumping systems was held by Messrs. Costello and Wirtanen. Mr. Costello explained the workings of the siphon system, which uses pressure differential, and the low maintenance requirements thereof. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted for the construction of this system with the following conditions:

1. No underground fuel storage tanks permitted on site.
2. Septic tank will be pumped annually.
3. The site will fully conform to the Town of Acton Hazardous Material Control Bylaw.
4. The sewage disposal system for the proposed buildings at this site are to be approved by Board of Health staff.
5. Leaching facility are designed and installed with pressure dosing of the system.
6. Floor cleaning procedures for the buildings will use only non-toxic and biodegradable compounds.
7. Sewage disposal system is a minimum of 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands.
8. Floor drains are not permitted.

Mrs. Sagoff requested that a condition be added that, considering the commercial/industrial use of the building, the Board of Health be notified, and the Board must approve, of any change of usage of the building, in whole or part, from office space to other usage. Mr. Stephens amended his motion to include this ninth condition. Mrs. Sagoff seconded, and all voted in favor.

10:10 p.m. Lots 2A and 2B Forest Drive. Request for special permits. Lots 2A and 2B

It was noted that a special permit had been previously granted for one lot at this site, but the lot was now divided into two lots, both of which met all the requirements of Code. The plans were reviewed for compliance. Mr. Stephens moved that ~~special permits be granted for lots 2A and 2B Forest Road, street numbers 5 and 12, with the following conditions: no underground fuel storage tanks permitted on the site; septic tank to be pumped every two years; the site will fully comply with the Town of Acton Hazardous Material Control Bylaw; the sewage disposal system for the proposed buildings at this site to be approved by Board of Health staff; the leaching facilities to be designed~~

using pressure distribution of the system; and the sewage disposal system is a minimum 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands. Mrs. Sagoff seconded, and all voted in favor.

10:16 p.m. Children's World, 90 Hayward Road. Request for Variances. Mr. Wirtanen stated that this plan had come back to add capability for food service area, which brings the design down to 1.18 square feet per gallon effluent. Mr. Costello stated he wished to table this matter pending further information from the design engineer, John Dunphy. Mr. Wirtanen described the conditions on site. Mr. Stephens stated that if the design can't be brought up to code, the variances will be denied.

10:20 By unanimous vote, the Board moved into executive session.

10:55 p.m. By unanimous vote, the Board moved out of executive session and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley  
Carol Holley, Sec'y

Signed and approved,

Daniel Costello  
Daniel Costello, Chairman