

Acton Board of Health
Minutes
January 23, 2006



Members Present: Mark Conoby, Acting Chairman, Dr. Pam Harting-Barrat, Member, Joanne Bissetta, Member, Dr. Bill Taylor, Member and Philip Alvarez (Associate voting for William McInnis).

Staff Present: Brent Reagor and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Anne Ford, Mary Michelman, Debra Simes, Bill Dunn and Rich Harrington

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Harting-Barrat, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of January 9, 2006 as amended.

Yankee Village – Pilot Approval of Sewage Treatment Plant

The Health Department is in receipt of an application from Yankee Village Condo Association to allow for the reconstruction of their 8,745 gallon per day Wastewater Treatment Facility. The previous facility was destroyed by a fire last year and they are currently operating under an Emergency Repair Permit. The destroyed treatment plant was constructed in the 1980's under order of the Acton Board of Health as the proposed design flow was less than 10,000 gallons per day which does not meet the threshold to require a treatment plant according to Title 5.

Therefore, after discussions with the DEP it was determined that the best course of action would be to approve this system as a "Site Specific Pilot Approval" under 310 CMR 15.282-15.289 – Approval of Alternative Systems which requires Board of Health approval. The recommended

conditions are similar to the requirements that Yankee Village was doing prior to the treatment plant burning down. The current water usage at Yankee Village is approximately half of the design flow. Mr. Conoby asked if the 30 mg/L is standard and also asked about nitrogen testing. Mr. Reagor stated the proximity to the wetlands does not warrant nitrogen testing. The Health Department has reviewed the plans submitted by the applicant and has discussed approval with the DEP to ensure consistency between the two organizations. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to grant a Site Specific Pilot Approval to Yankee Village with the following conditions:

1. The System is approved for the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage serving this site only. Any wastes that are non-sanitary sewage generated or used at the facility served by the system shall not be introduced into the system and shall be lawfully disposed.
2. Effluent discharge concentrations shall meet or exceed secondary treatment standards of 30 mg/L biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) and 30 mg/L total suspended solids (TSS). The effluent pH shall not be less than 6.0 or more than 9.0.
3. All samples shall be taken at a flowing discharge point, i.e. distribution box, pipe entering a pump chamber or other Department approved location from the treatment unit. Any required influent sample shall be taken at a point that will provide a representative sample of the influent. Influent sampling locations shall be determined by the system designer, subject to written approval by the Department.
4. Operation and Maintenance Agreement:
 - A. Throughout its life, the owner shall operate and maintain the system in accordance with the Company and designers operation and maintenance (O & M), the owner shall enter into an O&M agreement. No O&M agreement shall be for less than one year.
 - B. No system shall be used until an O & M agreement is submitted to the approving authority which:
 - a. Provides for the contracting of a person or firm competent in providing services consistent with the system's specified by the Company and the designer, and with any specified by the Department;

- b. Contains procedures for notification to the Department and the local board of health within 24 hours of a system failure or alarm event for corrective measures to be taken immediately.
 - c. Provides the name of an operator, which must be a Massachusetts certified operator if one is required by 257 CMR 2.00, that will operate and monitor the system. The operator must operate and visit the system monthly.
5. The system owner shall at all times have the system properly operated and maintained in accordance with this approval, the designer's operation and maintenance requirements and approved procedures and sampling protocols. The system owner shall notify the Department and local approving authority in writing within seven days of cancellation, expiration or other change in terms and/or conditions of their O&M agreement.
6. Influent and Effluent from the System serving a facility shall be monitored and recorded monthly. At a minimum, the following parameters shall be monitored and recorded: pH, BOD₅ and TSS.
7. Within 30 days of each monthly sampling event, the system owner shall submit to the approving authority all data collected in accordance with item 6, above, and an O&M checklist and a technology checklist, completed by the System operator for each inspection performed during the previous calendar year. Copies of the checklists are attached to this approval.
8. The septic tanks shall be pumped at least once per year and the septage shall be disposed of at an approved facility, and in accordance with all applicable regulations.
9. A copy of the operation and maintenance manual for the facility shall be submitted to the Acton Board of Health prior to commencement of operations.
10. A "Clearwater" hydraulic test of all components shall be performed, and witnessed by the Design Engineer and the Health Department, prior to commencement of operations.
11. The volume of sewage shall not exceed 8,745 gallons per day.

68 Willow Street(Lot 1) – Variance

The Health Department is in receipt of a request for a variance to Article 16-4.2.10 for a reduction in the required separation between a soil absorption system and a wetland for the property located at 68 Willow Street – Lot 1. This property is being subdivided and this lot is the existing dwelling. As a result of the subdivision, the applicant must meet Stormwater requirements under the Town of Acton Subdivision Control Bylaw. The Town Stormwater standards draw on Mass. Stormwater Control Policy which is currently being rewritten to encourage the retention of stormwater on site as stormwater was previously encouraged to be taken off the site. Rich Harrington, representing Stamski & McNary, stated that they designed the lots with the retention basins to provide the necessary level of environmental protection in accordance with the requirements of the Groundwater Protection District Zone 3. The Health Department has reviewed the plans and finds that the soils are coarse gravelly sands and the distance between the soil absorption system and the retention basin has been maximized. On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance to Article 16.4.2.10 with the following conditions:

1. The septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every two years.
2. An MADEP approved effluent tee filter shall be installed on the outlet of the septic tank.
3. The system shall be constructed in accordance with the above listed conditions, and a plan stamped by Joseph March, dated 1/17/2006.

68 Willow Street(Lot 2) – Variance

The Health Department is in receipt of a request for a variance to Article 16-4.2.10 for a reduction in the required separation between a soil absorption system and a wetland for the property located at 68 Willow Street – Lot 2. This is a newly formed lot as a result of a subdivision. The location of the leaching areas and the wetlands within this area limit the available locations of the drainage system. The Health Department has reviewed this plan and finds that the distance between the soil system and the retention basins has been maximized due to the constraints in keeping the drainage systems as far away as possible from the abutting property. Rich Harrington, representing Stamski & McNary, stated that the direction of groundwater flows away from the retention basin. Mr. Conoby stated that he is concerned with the 29' distance to the retention basin, however, he feels that environmental compensation has been met due to the septic system being higher than the basin and also is comfortable with the

fact that the groundwater flows away from the system. Mr. Harrington stated that the retention basin has been designed to fill up and flow out quickly and given the low point of the road it was placed as high as possible and that he feels the same degree of environmental compensation has been met. This property is fully compliant with all other applicable rules and regulations. On a motion made by Dr. Harting-Barrat, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to grant a variance from Article 16-4.2.10 for the property located at Lot 2 Newtown Road with the following conditions.

1. The septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every two years.
2. An MADEP approved effluent tee filter shall be installed on the outlet of the septic tank.
3. The system shall be constructed in accordance with the above listed conditions, and a plan stamped by Joseph March, dated 1/17/2006.

Other

- Ms. Michelman asked when the public hearing for Environmental Fill discussions will be set. The Board stated that they would look into a date. Ms. Michelman also stated that the Selectmen will be receiving the report tonight at their meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Harting-Barrat, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:30 P.M. to take a recess to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting and will adjourn immediately after that meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health

Mark Conoby
Mark Conoby, Acting Chairman
Acton Board of Health