

DATE 11/17/86BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE KELLEY'S CORNER ISSUE *Barbara Brown*
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

The Board of Health held a public meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 1986 at 7:30 P.M. in the Junior High Auditorium. Present were Board of Health Members Daniel Costello, Richard Stephens, Eleanor Voorhies, Charlotte Sagoff, George Emmons; Associate Member, Richard Oakley and Health Director Steve Calichman. Ann Simeone was recording secretary for the evening. The audience consisted of approximately 50 people.

Dan Costello called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. to discuss the wastewater issues at Kelley's Corner. Mr. Costello made introductions. Mr. Costello went over the agenda as follows:

1. The purpose of the meeting
2. Review of system histories and discussion
3. Discussion of water quality testing
4. Options for Kelley's Corner - on site solutions, package treatment plant or combined with the South Acton solution.
5. Input from meeting regarding the situation and possible solutions.

Mr. Costello noted that after this meeting the board will submit its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Groundwater Protection Committee. The Groundwater Protection Committee will then formulate their recommendations and submit them to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen will formulate their recommendations for Town Meeting action. Mr. Costello turned the meeting over to Mr. Calichman.

Mr. Calichman pointed out the locus for those who were not familiar with it.

289 Main Street, Exxon Station - the original system was put in in 1964, there was break-out in July of 1981, Board of Health sent a letter in July of 81. Mr. Calichman noted that usually, after a letter is sent, people take some kind of corrective action. This would explain some of the time frames. There was another break-out in 1982, another letter in 1982 and repair in 1983 with no problems since then.

210 Main Street, Candlewood and adjacent stores - Barber shop, hairdresser and a craft store. Also Acton Supply building. System repaired 1966 and 1979, overflowed in 1983, new system was put in by

Acton Supply in 1983 and there have been no other problems to Mr. Calichman's knowledge.

385 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton Plaza - Mr. Calichman noted a pump break down caused a field to fail. In 1985 a legal letter was sent. System overflowed in 1986, 16,000 gallons pumped in 1986, overflowed again. A faulty toilet in CVS caused a problem and there was another overflow on March 16, 1986 and April 1986. A letter was sent to Mr. Bachrach and he contracted to have a peroxide treatment in July of 1986. This was just completed and Mr. Calichman noted we have no track record, but with luck, he felt there was a good chance the system would come back. He noted if it did not, there was room to re-construct.

Ed Richter questioned whether there was room for another bed, noting the land was an easement in the parking area that already has a system, that Acton Medical had purchased that land. Mr. Calichman noted he felt there was still room for replacement but if not that the existing area could be dug deeper, backfilled w/sharp sand or gravel and replacement could take place.

256 Main Street, MacDonald's - Mr. Calichman noted the waste from this type of facility was much more difficult to treat, since it contained a lot of grease. The system was approved in 1972 and on line in 1973, repaired in 1977, a legal order in 1982 with peroxide treatment in 1982 which worked for one year and eight months. The question was raised as to how long a peroxide treatment should last. Mr. Calichman noted a residential treatment has lasted, but MacDonald's has not. He noted if the system has a hydraulic over-load and is under-designed it will not work. A gentlemen asked Mr. Calichman if he would say MacDonald's has failed. Mr. Calichman noted he had been in contact and working with MacDonald's and abutting properties.

263 Main Street, Meineke Muffler - The metal tank was replaced in 1980, a plan for a new leaching area submitted in 1985. As part of occupancy agreement we have plans which have been approved and we are waiting to see if Mr. Yetman is going through with these plans.

421 Massachusetts Avenue, Sunoco - The original plan was in 1961, new system in 1965 to accomodate an addition. Problem in 1983, follow-up in August of 1983, response in September of 83, follow-up with another letter. Did soil testing in 1984. The question was raised as how the soil

perked. Mr. Calichman noted that it did perk in one area, however, there was a leaching problem on the site. Gary Wehr of Sandas Trail noted they have a record going back to 1983 and it is now 1986 and they are testing the soil. He questioned why they were still in business. Mr. Calichman noted that the system had not been continually failing for three years, it would work at times, and at times it would not.

272-276 Main Street - Redstone Condominiums - System approved in 1961. Water testing in 1975 indicated a problem. Water testing was done again in 1984. Corrective action in pumping tanks and acid treatment in 1975. Problems with high coliform indicating sewage breaking out. A letter was sent in 1983. Perkins Company was retained by Redstone and testing was continued. Mr. Calichman noted there were conditions for the owners on the system noting that the system was not to over-flow and it be pumped as needed to prevent overflow onto Route 27. The results of soil testing indicated a ledge problem and seasonal high-water problem. Testing was done on the McCarthy/Towne Property to the rear. The question was raised as to what the prognosis was for being able to fix Redstone. Mr. Calichman noted they have a difficult problem and the first thing would be to control the water table, and if they can do that the system works. He noted it does not work during periods of high groundwater. William Yetman questioned how Redstone could control the water table. Mr. Calichman noted they have to see if they could put in an interceptor trench. He noted whether or not this can be accomplished he did not know. They may have to see if the School Committee would let them use some school land to do this. Mr. Yetman asked if an interceptor trench was put through Kelley's Corner heading down to the brook near Goodyear if this would solve the problem. Mr. Calichman noted that this would be a positive factor and may allow the systems in the area to function better than they do now.

Mr. Calichman went over the coliform testing standards, noting that he and Ed Richter and Roberta Burkey had gone through the Kelley's Corner area and he pointed out the sampling areas on the map. The question was raised as to the classification of the Assabet River. It was noted it was C or C-. Mr. Calichman noted that an inspector from the health department had been sent to the area where one sample was TNTC (too numerous

to count) in the swamp east of Haartz north of Hayward Road. Ken Sundberg asked when this testing was done. Mr. Calichman noted June 30, 1986. Ken asked if this was a time of high water. Mr. Calichman noted it was not, it was actually low water table. Bill Weeks asked if the ratio from fecal to total has any meaning. Mr. Calichman noted it did not. Bill asked if Mr. Calichman felt there was a high-water full count in the area near Finast. Fred Gates of Vanderbilt Road noted he felt once we looked at these figures during high water, these would be much higher. Ed Richter noted there was a stream between Acton Medical and Finast sampled at #1 with a total of 1,000, then it goes in front of Finast at 1,800, then across the street at 2,100, increasing with each step. Ed noted indications of streams being fed from K-Mart and MacDonald's and others like that. He noted on the High School fields there is a line that goes from the tennis courts to the west of Route 2 east onto Main Street across from Acton Medical. He felt there may be effluent coming from the High School system. He noted there is a pond behind Hayward House of Travel. He felt there were several things there that were suspect. He felt it would be interesting to do some testing in this pond. Mr. Calichman noted they had already done this. Mr. Richter felt a test hole should be dug. Mr. Calichman noted they would probably first use dye. Jack Flanagan of Acton Dental Building noted they supported the effort to improve this area but did not feel this sewage was coming from the hill where they were located. Craig Fingerman questioned whether they had taken samples from other areas to compare. Mr. Calichman noted they had not done this on this particular project, but surface water samples were recently taken of Fort Pond and Nashoba Brook and the results were good. Jim Wengler of Francine Road asked if the problem was not to control this some way with a treatment plant or however it could best be improved.

Mr. Dan Costello of the Board of Health pointed out the following:

1. There seems to be on-site solutions for all except Redstone Condominiums and Sunoco.
2. We have not found a site for the package plant.
3. We are still evaluating the options for the South Acton solution.

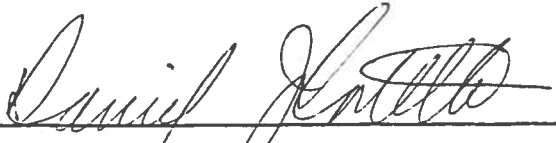
Mr. Bob Evans questioned whether option #2 would be only for Redstone and Sunoco. It was noted this was yet to be decided. Nancy Tavernier asked if they hadn't said there was not place to put such a plant. Mr. Costello noted they had not found one as yet. Mr. Costello asked if anyone had any input, since this would be the time to voice their opinions. Walter Clapich of Beverly Road questioned whether this system was to correct problems or allow expansion in the area. Mr. Costello noted this decision had not been made. Mr. Clapich noted someone should look into this. He noted a lot of perk tests had been done in the area behind Foster and Foster. He felt properties could expand with a treatment plant. He questioned why taxpayers should pay to help a privileged few. Mr. Costello noted that the town could create a district and how it would proceed. Mr. Costello noted some of the Selectmen were opposed to including Kelley's Corner since it might hurt the South Acton solution. The question was raised as to what was going to happen to federal funding. Jim Wengler of Francine Road felt if we do get involved we should cast it in concrete so that the businesses could not use the largest portion of the system. Dr. Flanagan noted this type of thing should be controlled through zoning. Craig Fingerman asked if they had said only two properties could not be fixed by on-site solution. Mr. Costello noted this was true. Ed Richter noted that growth of the town had not been controlled by not having sewers. He noted Concord has grown much less and they have sewers in their town. He felt the two could be separated and controlled. A gentleman in the audience noted he felt MacDonald's should be added to the sites that cannot be repaired. Mr. Costello noted he did not agree. Sandra Whaley of River Street noted expansion is not a new issue. She felt a study should be done on all parcels of land. She also noted there were few developable lots in the Kelley's Corner area. She noted there are things that can be built into the sewer district. Mary Leonhardt felt that growth and zoning were inappropriate topics for this meeting and we should be discussing sewerage issues. George Emmons of the Board of Health asked if anyone from the Kelley's Corner area had anything to add. Nancy Tavernier noted she would like to discuss cost and what each business might have to pay. Mr. Costello noted they did not have

these figures. William Yetman noted his plans were already approved for putting a septic system in - the cost is a minimum of \$35,000.00 and could easily go to \$50,000.00. Diane Sacco of Redstone Condominiums noted she had received an estimate of \$240,000.00 with no guarantee that it will last more than a year and a half. Charlotte Sagoff noted that some people were fearful to tell the Board of Health what was going on with their systems for fear that they might be closed down. She noted this is the time to get help and mention any problems they might have. Mrs. Macone noted that the Beacon was doing this. Ken Sundberg asked if new regulations had been passed by the Board of Health. Mr. Costello noted they had not. He noted a formal complaint was issued to DEQE regarding procedures used by the Board of Health and they, the Acton Board of Health, were told they must conform to the letter of the law. All variances have to be concurred by DEQE and a professional has to design the system as opposed to the Town of Acton. He noted they have to have certain covenants signed and hold the Town of Acton harmless. Ken Sundberg asked if the increase in cost was the result of this. Mr. Costello noted it was difficult to say, but it had been quite costly to some people. Dr. Flanagan asked if conservation of water helps a system. Mr. Costello noted it does. John Whittier noted he felt the Board of Health should be congratulated for giving us a very informative presentation this evening. A gentleman in the audience asked how many systems were replaced this year and what the average life of a system was. Steve noted 72, the average year is between 50 and 70. He noted that prior to 1970 approximately 32 years was the life of a system, after 1970, 71, 72 it is approximately 50 or more years if they are properly maintained. The average cost would be approximately \$6,000. Bill Weeks asked if there were a difference between failure and repair. Mr. Calichman noted that failure was when waste water would not infiltrate into the ground. A pumping is not a system failure. Bill asked what other kind of failures there were. Mr. Costello noted that they would have a problem with one of the "T"s, which would be considered a mechanical failure. Mary Leonhardt noted that Redstone was not going to last 50 years. Mr. Costello noted that two things had happened. Acton had apartments

constructed in the town and at the same time DEQE changed its regulations and the failure of some systems were because they were under-designed. Sandra Whaley noted that she felt a hydrogeologic map of the area would be helpful to people. J. Woodard asked if Yankee Village had failed and who paid for their treatment plant. It was noted the condominium owners had paid for it.

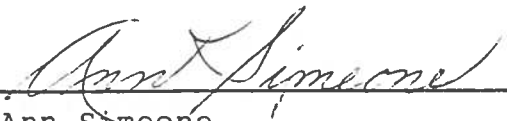
MEETING ADJOURNED

9:00 P.M.



Daniel Costello, Chairman

Oct 21, 1986
Date



Ann Simeone
Recording Secretary

4751B

Coliform Testing in the Vicinity of Kelley's Corner
 June 30, 1986 10:30- 12:00 & 2:30- 5:00 (Very Dry Conditions)
 S.Calichman, R.Burkey and E.Richter

Sample	Total	Fecal	Location
1	1100	484	Stream behind Finast
2	1800	520	Catchbasin in front of Finast near 111
3	1200	62	CB in front of Merchant's B. near 111 (Upper sluice)
4	100	0	CB in front of Merchant's B. near 111 (Lower sluice)
5	1200	256	Culvert under Rt.2 exit to Main St. (Drainage from School land)
6	1700	136	Leader Fed. Savings next to Shell Sta.
7	2500	204	Manhole at Acton Dental Bldg.
8	400	0	Rear of McDonald near septic sys. vent
9	200	0	K-Mart Garden Dept. near Mass.Ave.
10	1400	160	K-Mart Parking, Swamp near Main St.
11	500	2	K-Mart Parking across from Beverly Rd.
12	600	116	235 Main St. East side
13	700	136	Main St. West side near Candlewood R.
14	300	0	Main St. at the point of Prospect St.
15	100	0	Main St. West side near Ch.Dis.Museum
16	100	6	161 Main St.
17	300	2	Central St. behind Music Store
18	1300	10	Prospect St. South end of Donelan lot
19	300	0	Prospect St. 100' South of Mass. Ave.
20	1800	32	Stream East of Goodyear
21	3200	40	Downstream from Foster & Foster
22	2100	248	Stream across from Finast under 111
23	400	0	End of Towne-McCarthy drive (North)
24	700	14	Ditch near back of High School Tennis Courts
25	900	84	Stream near High School Soccer Fields
26	TNTC*	2000	Swamp East of Haartz North of Hayward

Dry catchbasins were observed at ten locations:
 Entrance to Acton Plaza near Exxon
 Shawmut County Bank
 Acton Dental Bldg. Grate
 Mass.Ave. near Sunoco (TNTC-Total/1500-Fecal 3/29/86 test)
 236 Main St. West side
 200 Main St. near Acton Supply East & West
 Donelan's at Main St.
 138 Main St.
 Catchbasin at Foster & Foster

*TNTC= Too numerous to count

Stream connections of some of the test points:

Acton Medical under Finast and under Mass.Ave

#1(1100)-#2(1800)-#22(2100)

Acton Plaza under Mass.Ave.& East along S. side of Mass.Ave.

#3(1200)-#6(1700)-#7(2500)-#20(1800)-#21(3200)

High School Fields to Exit of Rt.2 East to Main St.

#24(700)-#25(900)-#5(1200)

Pond behind Hayward H.of Travel & Allmetal Fab. to

#26(TNTC)

State standards: Total Coliform over 1000/100ml, water is not safe for swimming.

COSTS TO HOME OWNERS FOR KULLY'S CORNER SEWERING

Item	Best	Likely	Worst
Interceptor Pipe	90%*	70%*	No Funding
Collector Pipes	45%*	45%*	No Funding
Total Cost to Town	\$477,000	\$573,000	\$1,200,000
Bonded Annual Cost to Town	\$50,900	\$61,100	\$128,000
Tax Increase to Individual property owners if town pays 10% of collectors and 50% of interceptor costs	1.0 cents per \$1,000 valuation	1.0 cents per \$1,000 valuation	3.5 cents per \$1,000 valuation
Annual Cost for \$100,000 home IAX valuation under maximum funding.	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$3.50
Individual tax hike if town pays for entire project	6 cents	7 cents	14 cents

*NOTE: Percentages represent the portion of project costs covered by State and Federal funds