



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

MEETING MINUTES – February 28, 2023 – 4:30 PM

The Board of Health met at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, 66 High Point Lane, virtually by Zoom (meeting ID: 814 7735 6737, Passcode: 31433), or by phone at 646-876-9923.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Jeff Pratt and Dr. Michael Loberg, Clerk. Maura Valley, Health Agent, Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, were also in attendance.

Vice Chairman Malcolm Boyd and Valerie Soushek, Administrative Secretary, were absent.

Chairman Pratt called the meeting to order at 4:47 PM.

APPOINTMENT(S)

4:30 – Jolanta Wojnowski – 64 Mariner Road

Re: Waiver to upgrade (failed) septic system

Ms. Valley summarized the matter for the commissioners – Ms. Wojnowski had an emergency pump-out last August. Shortly after, Doug Cooper conducted a visual inspection and confirmed the system failed. Ms. Wojnowski hired Vineyard Land Surveying to design a new system, for which Ms. Valley and Reid Silva conducted a perc test. However, due to the cost of a new IA system in a watershed, Ms. Wojnowski requests an upgrade waiver even given the loan opportunities through the Town and The Resource Inc. She would prefer to pump out the system annually.

Ms. Valley confirmed that the hardship clause in Tisbury's septic regulations would allow the installation of a standard Title 5 instead of an IA system.

Ms. Wojnowski stated that she was (already) aware of the failed leaching pit, but Mr. Cooper confirmed it and suggested having Jay Araujo treat the pit with AID-Ox. Otherwise, Doug resigned from the project when Ms. Wojnowski wanted to change the location of the proposed upgrade. She thought she should be able to keep the same layout even though the original design was done incorrectly.

Vineyard Land Surveying (VLS) worked on a new design. They had her sign a contract, pay \$3500 for their services, and told her it would cost \$40,000 to upgrade to the required IA system. VLS dug a hole in her garden and identified the location of the new leaching field, again not preferred by Ms. Wojnowski. Afterward, she received a letter requesting payment for their design of a non-gravity system and the removal of the soggy soil.

Ms. Wojnowski asked the commissioners if she could treat her system with AID-Ox as needed and pump the failed leaching pit annually instead of upgrading.

Ms. Valley stated that she is concerned about ponding at the leaching pit and that AID-Ox treatments work when a system is marginally functional, not so far deteriorated. She emphasized that financial assistance should be considered, but Ms. Wojnowski is reluctant, given her limited life savings and leaving her family with such a burden. Ms. Valley explained how a TRI loan depreciates and is only due if the property sells.

Ms. Valley suggested speaking with Doug Cooper and Reid Silva for further clarification and then revisiting the matter at the next meeting. In the meantime, she understands that the system is failed; there are saturated soils and ponding in the yard.

Ms. Valley added that the yard is small and, on an angle, so the location for a new gravity system could be problematic. Also, the laundry line is draining into the ground.

Chairman Pratt told Ms. Wojnowski that yearly pumping is a significant expense and could be unsustainable in a few years. He concurred with Maura's suggestion to talk to Reid and Doug, but he asked Ms. Wojnowski to reconsider the financial options for upgrading. He also stated that the commissioners do not have the authority to waive the upgrade requirement for a watershed.

Ms. Valley said she would talk to Reid about the proposed location and other options and report back at the next meeting.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

Targeted Wastewater Management Plan (TWMP)

There was a meeting with Scott Horstley, who is working on a TWMP, Environmental Partners, who are working on the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP),

Ms. Valley, and Jared Meader. Scott is trying to update the projections that were part of the 2010 Mass Estuaries Report, released in 2015, and updated in 2017, to apply current data and assumptions when developing the TWMP for removing nitrogen from Lake Tashmoo. We've provided a list of the properties within 500' of the water body. The assessor's office is working on a report on the number of transferred properties and what type of properties they are. This report will provide a baseline of the Nitrogen levels in the area, but other issues remain, i.e., limited available installers, designers, and technologies.

Tisbury resident, Mac Schilcher, was in attendance and raised stormwater and fertilizer runoff (from Mink Meadows, for example) issues, improved maintenance of the flush basins, and sediment loading in Lake Tashmoo. He believes they should be addressed as a short-term project and that nitrogen mitigation/wastewater in the longer term as it will take longer to implement and reap the rewards.

The commissioners appreciated Mac's comments and assured him that his concerns, esp. with the lack of flush basin maintenance, would be addressed in the TWMP.

The commissioners motioned to allow Maura to work with the water department on developing a regulation requiring the replacement of lead water lines at the sale/transfer of private properties. The Town water lines have been tested and are not producing lead in the water system. A draft will be presented to the commissioners at a future meeting.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

General Updates

Ms. Blake provided several licenses for the commissioners to sign. She stated that she has not received any documentation for the proposed outdoor taco restaurant on Main Street yet.

DWAs FOR BOARD APPROVAL

4414 – Warley Miranda – 191 Spring Hill Rd. / 24-A-57 – Upgrade of a failed system to a NitROE unit for an existing (5) bedroom dwelling with (1) variance - Approved.

4415 – Harold Nascimento – 82 Clover Hill Dr. / 19-A-15.1 – Postponed for additional information.

4416 – Robert Rippcondi – 121 North William St. / 5-K-1 – Postponed for additional information.

BILLS AND PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

Chairman Pratt adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM with no further business to conduct.

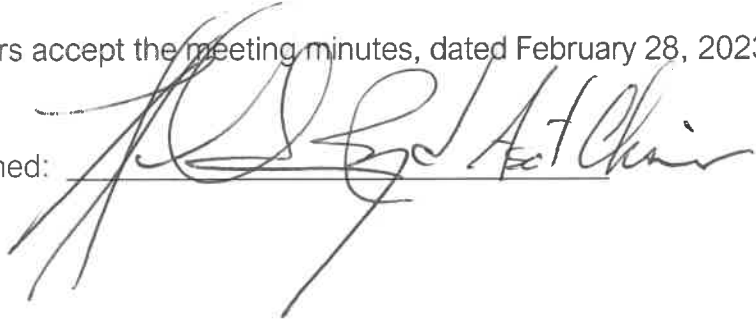
Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated February 28, 2023, as presented.

Date: 28 Mar 2023 Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Scott, At Chair", written over a horizontal line.