

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**One Liberty Lane**  
**Norfolk, MA 02056**

Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting: Thursday, December 03, 2015 Town Hall Meeting Room 124**

**Board of Health Members Attending**

Chairman:	Tom Gilbert
Clerk:	Cheryl Dunnington
Member:	Jeff Kane
Admin. Asst:	Betsy Fijol
Others:	Wade Saucier & Tom Houston/Health Agents

Tom Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**New Business**

**Project: Variance Hearing-2 Norwell Street Septic System Upgrade**

Applicant: Paul Cutler/Landmark Engineering, Jane Andrews/Applicant

Comments: Tom Gilbert called the variance hearing to order at 7:34 pm and informed the applicant's engineer of the Board of Health requirements for issuing variances.

Mr. Cutler presented the proposed plan to upgrade the existing failed septic system for the three bedroom home at 2 Norwell Street. Mr. Cutler explained that he is requesting two variances because the limited size of the lot. The first request is to allow the soil absorption system to the rear and side property line to be 5', rather than the required 10'. The second request is to allow the soil absorption system to be 18.3' from the foundation, rather than the required 20'.

Wade said that there is no increase in the design flow from the original bedroom count. Soil exploration limited the availability of consistent soils within the lot. The applicant has two successful deep observation holes and percolation rates. To utilize the area rear property line, side property line and foundation setback variances are necessary. If the board seeks to approve the variances then the following items are recommended:

1. A suitable document is recorded in the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which signifies that no garage grinder shall be installed or used in the dwelling on subject property.
2. The final grade over the soil absorption system (maximum 3') and septic tank (minimum 9" excluding top and subsoil) will need to be addressed by the design engineer prior to approval of the Disposal System Construction Permit with review from the Health Agent.

Jeff moved to grant the variances as requested for 2 Norwell Street. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

**Project: Variance Hearing-19 Union Street Septic System Upgrade**

Applicant: Paul Cutler/Landmark Engineering for the applicant.

Comments: Tom Gilbert called the variance hearing to order at 7:45 pm and informed the applicant's engineer of the Board of Health requirements for issuing variances.

Mr. Cutler presented the proposed plan to upgrade the existing failed septic system for the three bedroom home at 19 Union Street. He explained that the lot is small in size and lies almost entirely in the wetland buffer zone and will require Conservation Commission approval.

Mr. Cutler said that the variance request(s) are as follows:

1. To allow a 3.8' variance from the septic tank to the front property line (10' minimum required, 6.2' shown).
2. To allow a 6.3' variance from the soil absorption system to the front property line (10' minimum required, 3.7' shown).
3. To allow a 9.9' variance from the soil absorption system to the foundation (20' minimum required, 10.1' shown).
4. To allow a 5.3' variance from the septic tank to the water service line (10' minimum required, 4.7' shown).

Wade said that the encroachment to the water service could be avoided if the soil absorption system was reduced 25%. This reduction can be granted by the local Board of Health. Using the same leaching facility units (Quick 4 Infiltrator) the trench length could be reduced to roughly 24'. The septic tank would then have enough room to move over to maintain the minimum 10' distance from the water service. Wade said that if the board seeks to approve the variances then the following items are recommended:

1. A suitable document is recorded in the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which signifies that no garage grinder shall be installed or used in the dwelling on subject property.
2. If the soil absorption is reduced then a suitable document is recorded in the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which limits the number of bedrooms to three.
3. The 30 ml polyethylene plastic impervious barrier is upgraded to the local standards (40 ml polyethylene plastic barrier).

Jeff moved to approve variances as requested with the exception of the variance for the setback to the water line. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

**Project: Discuss Run & Gun Ranch/123 Seekonk Street Noise and Dust Complaint**

Comments: Karen Clark, 130 Seekonk Street, said that she has met with the Board of Selectmen regarding the noise and dust issue from the Run and Gun Ranch located at 123 Seekonk Street and it was recommended that she speak to the Board of Health.

Ms. Clark said that she had an assessment performed by an acoustical engineer, Cross-Spectrum Acoustics, of the noise levels at three residences to the Run and Gun Ranch during a Cowboy Mounted Shooting event to determine if noise from the event exceeded applicable noise limits.

She said that Mass DEP policy specifies that a broadband noise source must not increase the background noise levels by 10 dB (decibels) or more as measured at the property line. The noise measurements documented in the report indicate that noise during the ranch events ranged from 35 to 42 dB.

Ms. Clark said that the Board of Selectmen have decided that they need to have their own noise assessment performed. She also said that the dust from trucks and trailers entering and exiting the site is an issue and provided pictures.

Wade said that he did respond to a dust complaint related to that property a few years ago and it was determined through an observation that trucks entering the property during road construction was the cause of the dust and this was a temporary issue.

Wade said that the Cowboy Mounted Shooting events are permitted through an entertainment license from the Board of Selectmen and dust control is a condition of their entertainment license. This year there were about 6 events on site and each last about 4 hours and not all of the events involve shooting.

Mr. Houston explained that agricultural activities on properties of 5 acres or more cannot be regulated by zoning.

Jeff said he does not believe the noise issue is a Board of Health issue and it sounds like the Board of Selectmen are going to try to arrange a multi-board meeting to determine how to deal with the issues at hand.

Ms. Clark said the entertainment license for the ranch is expiring at the end of December and they have to reapply up to 45 days prior to the first event.

Tom said that the dust issue can be addressed effectively by wetting it down materials or spreading calcium chloride. Mr. Archibald, 127 Seekonk Street, said that there is over a mile of crushed stone driveway and the dust from that is an issue as well.

Tom said the Board of Health looks forward to the Board of Selectmen convening the appropriate boards to address this issue.

**Project: Proposed Changes in Deer Carcass Handling for Norfolk**

Applicant: Hilary Cohen/Animal Control Officer & Paul Vito/DPW

Comments: Hilary explained that she and Mr. Vito have been discussing alternative methods for disposal of carcass deer that she picks up after they have been either casualties of motor vehicle accidents or through natural causes. The past and present method of disposal is by means of ground burial on the land at the Transfer Station. That area is now being used by the solar panels and is no longer sustainable to use as deer have already been buried in most of the area.

Hilary said that they have been researching carcass composting that is being used in other cold climate states and would like implement that practice in Norfolk. The practice of composting is environmentally sound because it will not affect the groundwater. The carcasses are composted

in a way that they break down quickly, efficiently, and without any issues with flies, sanitation, scavenging animals and odor. After the carcasses are composted, they become a beneficial fertilizer and soil amendment for road side projects. Composting is also cost effective as the materials used are in abundance at the transfer station and all this is needed is a relatively small area, jersey barriers, wood chips, and large equipment that twice a year will turn the compost over (once), and then a second time to transfer the compost into reusable material.

The Board wished Hilary and Paul all the best in making this work.

**Project: Tobacco 21 Regulations**

Comments: The Board scheduled a public hearing for the draft tobacco 21 regulations for Tuesday, January 26, 2016 and will post them for public comment.

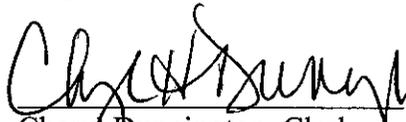
**Next Meetings & Schedule**

The next Board of Health meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2016.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cheryl Dunnington, Clerk