

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 2nd, 2016  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall Annex  
3 Pond Road  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Assistant Director: Max Schenk

This meeting is being recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no “Public Oral Communication”.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of May 5<sup>th</sup> , 2016 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of May 16<sup>th</sup> , 2016 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Larry Durkin, Environmental Engineer, City of Gloucester Water Compliance Office, requests the Board's support in efforts to prevent the use of herbicides, for right-of-way clearing, by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, within Gloucester watershed areas.

*Larry Durkin, Environmental Engineer, City of Gloucester Water Compliance Office, appeared before the board. He thanked the board for their efforts in the campaign to maintain fluoride in the City Water Supply. He stated that he has been struggling with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to prohibit the use of herbicides near and around the Babson Water Supply. He stated there are beaver ponds within the proposed spray area near the tracks that drain into Babson. He stated that the MBTA has made some concessions but he would like the Gloucester/Rockport line of the railways to be a spray-free zone. He stated that he has been appealing the use of herbicides with the contractor operator of the MBTA, The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and the hydrologist with The Massachusetts Department of Public Works. He stated that he does not normally like to elevate his concerns to such a high level but it is one that he cannot professionally accept. He asked Board members to accompany him on a railway ride through the area that is of concern. The board agreed to have a representative from the Board attend the ride with Mr. Durkin. The board also agreed to write a letter of support, if needed, to stop the use of herbicides along the railway line along the Babson Reservoir.*

139 Magnolia Ave (Map 198 / Lot 27) Steven & Marilyn Keczy, Owners – John Judd, Gateway Consultants, Design Engineer

Request for variance to Title 5 section 15.211 (1) (Minimum setback distances) in order to place septic system components within 33' of a wetland boundary (100' required).

*John Judd* of Gateway Consultants appeared before the board. He gave a brief overview of the variance requested.

*Mr. Cowan* asked how the maintenance of systems like the proposed system could be less onerous on the homeowner. *Mr. Judd* responded that the State requires annual maintenance of these systems.

*Mr. Rosa* stated that they are impressed with the Presby systems and asked what quarterly maintenance checks actually check. *Mr. Judd* responded that the man-hole covers are checked to make sure there are no issues. He stated that the distribution box is also checked. *Mr. Rosa* asked if the financial burden on the homeowner was very different than other systems. *Mr. Judd* responded that he believes that is up to the homeowner to negotiate the cost. *Mr. Cowan* stated that the owners of these systems might not realize how easy an inspection is of systems like these that have no moving parts. *Mr. Schenk* stated that homeowners can petition for a variance to Gloucester’s Regulation to have their inspections reduced to twice a year after the first year of quarterly inspections.

*Mr. Schenk* gave the board a memo from Mr. Akerley that stated he recommended the plan be approved.

*Chairperson Sagall* asked if there was anyone that would like to speak for or against the requested variance. There was no one.

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan that the Board of Health approve the variance request for 139 Magnolia Ave (Map 198/27) as written on the agenda of June 2, 2016. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Updates: North Shore Health Project’s Harm Reduction Program Update-

*Mr. Schenk* stated that he submitted the support letter on behalf of the board to the City’s administration as requested.

Report of Board of Health – Health Director Search Committee-

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the City has hired Karin Carroll as the Public Health Director. Ms. Carroll will start on August 22, 2016. The board thanked Mr. Schenk for his added effort in the absence of a Public Health Director.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Presented by Max Schenk

*Mr. Schenk* submitted the following “Monthly Report” to Board members.



*Chairperson Sagall* stated that running data on the Monthly Reports on a spreadsheet would be useful.

*Mr. Schenk* stated that they have approached the Tower Foundation for a grant to help support the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative's regional work and the Tower Foundation is interested in supporting the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative.

**CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

1 Pilot's Hill Road (Map 60/Lot 6) - *Chairperson Sagall* asked for an update of the condemned property at 1 Pilot's Hill Road. *Mr. Schenk* stated that Mr. Aro has been to the Health Department and asked for some guidance as to how to get everything turned back on and repaired at the home. He stated that he notified the Police and the Fire Departments that the house has been condemned. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he heard that Mr. Aro is still living at the property. The board agreed to have the Police notified to remove any occupants from the property. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he is not pleased to displace anyone from their home but this is a public health issue and Mr. Aro should be told that the Police are going to be notified to remove him from the property.

Mrs. Nicastro, Food Inspector - *Mr. Cowan* thanked Mrs. Nicastro for being so helpful consulting in code enforcement and in the design phase of at the Unitarian Universalist Church's expansion of their kitchen so they are able to provide meals at the Grace Center; breakfast and lunch five days a week.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.  
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**  
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

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Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 Board of Health Agenda  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board of Health Minutes  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 SSC Board of Health Minutes  
June 2016 Monthly Department Reports