

Shutesbury Board of Health
July 29, 2020, 7:00 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Norene Pease, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, Al Werner, board members; Charlie Kaniecki, health agent; others as noted below.

Minutes of the meeting of July 15 were approved.

7:30 pm, hearing on septic system repair, 25 Leverett Road, ZH-16. Attending: Craig Marden and Sandy Kelly, sellers; Tom Leue, system designer; Kim Raczka, seller's agent; Scott Ardizzone, buyer's agent; Alan Weiss, engineer, asked by another party to observe the approval process.

Variances were requested for:

1. reduced elevation to groundwater. A DEP-approved Eljen system is proposed, allowing this reduction.
2. use of soil analysis in lieu of perc test. A deep hole observation was not feasible, according to health agent. A sieve analysis was performed on the most restrictive soil. The soil is very changeable.
3. placement of tank inlets and outlets less than 1 foot above the groundwater level. Because of the level of the sewer line inside the house, it is not possible to raise the septic tank to meet this requirement. No pipes are to be below the water table.
4. reduction in the amount of naturally occurring permeable soil. Because of bedrock found throughout the property, there is not 48" of such soil anywhere. The reduction is to 40-46".

Alan Weiss stated for the record that the plan for an Eljen system involves in a reduction in size of nearly 40% from the size of a conventional system. Any premature failure may possibly be related to that reduction. Tom Leue said there is room for a conventional system, which is shown to scale on the drawing.

Other discussion: The assessors' card describes the house as a 3-bedroom and it has been used as a 3-bedroom. It has been argued that a small room off the master bedroom might be used as a bedroom. The system failed Title 5 in 2007, with standing liquid in the D-box, but it was not a functional failure and Charlie Kaniecki saw no sewage on the ground. He feels that the proposal achieves maximum feasible compliance within a restricted area.

The board voted unanimously first to vote on all four variances as a single item and then to approve the variances.

The hearing was closed at approximately 7:45.

Shutesbury Athletic Club. Attending: Mark Olszewski, David Hanson, Alan Hanson

The SAC board would like to open for outdoor service and music the weekend of August 15 in the hope of making enough money to pay the bills. Bars may not open until Phase 4 unless they also provide table service of substantial food that has been prepared on the premises. Musicians must maintain a distance of 25 feet from patrons. Social distancing, one-way traffic, and other protocols will be submitted to Charlie ASAP and to the board for its meeting on August 12.

Other discussion:

Mosquito Control Reform Bill, recently passed. Communities with their own plan can opt out of otherwise obligatory spraying in the case of “elevated risk of arbovirus” as declared by DPH. Is being in an MCD enough? Should we ask the Select Board to permanently opt out of any spraying by the state? Ask Chris Craig about this.

Library reopening plan: Mary Anne has submitted a draft and will attend our August 12 meeting. She anticipates opening the library for browsing the Tuesday after Labor Day.

School reopening draft plan has been submitted and will be circulated.

Early in-person voting August 22 and 29 for the September 3 primary. Grace plans to set up the booths as they were at ATM on all three dates.

Town policy on in-person meetings. Becky and Grace have refused postings for outdoor meetings; I backed them up saying that DPH is recommending against them. There were A

A number of complaints about Lake Wyola State Park and police not wearing masks. We got an email from Elena Cohen of Sen. Comerford’s staff asking if we want help with the park.

Ordering of supplies: Walter will do the ordering but should not pay them; bills are to be sent to the district for payment. Bill to the district, don’t pay. MEMA supplies were delivered to the EMD this week; these are for the towns, not supposed to be for the school. CK suggests keeping these for a second wave—provided they can be found. File space will be made available in our cabinets in Town Hall for things that would be affected by temperature fluctuation in the trailer. Arleen will look into syringe disposal as the fire station has many.

A therapeutic massage practice in town is hoping to reopen, will expect clients to be masked but the masseuse won’t be. Can this happen? We will query DPH.

A resident, who reported symptoms, asked for information about testing sites, and was advised to consult her doctor. We need to update our website for links to testing sites, symptoms, etc.

Board agreed we should try to line up a backup person to do MAVEN. Arleen will follow up.

Adjourn 8:55.