

Shutesbury Board of Health
August 17, 2022, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine (until 7:30), Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; brief visit by Mark Rivers of LWAC.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Mark Rivers asked about initiating LWAC meeting on Saturday morning.

87 Locks Pond Road, E-5, DWCP: Board voted unanimously to authorize Cat to issue the permit once all requirements (fee, signed application, review) are met.

50 Old Egypt Road, C-60, DWCP: Board voted unanimously to authorize Cat to issue permit when reviewed.

Cat reported on two unilateral actions she took recently:

21 Sumner Mt Road, W-78, septic tank replacement following a T5 inspection. The application was received right after our last meeting and there was a big hole in the ground, so I approved the installation.

35 Weatherwood Road, V-27: This property has recently been bought after a long period of vacancy, and there are wetlands all over it. The new owner needs to remove a rotting deck for safety reasons, but because of the wetlands needed ConCom approval. In order to avoid a lengthy approval process, ConCom asked the Board of Health to require the removal of the deck. Charlie inspected it on 8/16 and wrote up the order on 8/17. Miriam Defant issued an Emergency Certificate authorizing the removal on 8/17.

Cat also reported on two very recent communications:

SES: A resident contacted the Department of Public Health with concerns about the air quality in the school and Mike Feeney of the Indoor Air Quality Program called the Board of Health. Cat asked Becky Torres to respond as Becky has much more knowledge of the situation. Upshot: If the principal is willing, Feeney will conduct a free air quality assessment on Friday, August 26. This could potentially be helpful in getting the state to pay for a much-needed new roof.

Also, an abutter to the Jewish Cemetery has complained that JCA is conducting natural burials within 100 feet of a private well; she has contacted DEP herself, so we expect to hear from them. According to the complainant, DEP has concerns not only about private wells in the area but about the Public Water Supply well at the elementary school. JCA did not seek authorization for natural burial from the Board of Health. The Board is unanimously in favor of a cease-and-desist order, but voted to be guided by our health agents in this.

Norene reported on personnel changes at FRCOG and the return of the SAPHE 2.0 bill to the legislature. This will slow down the Public Health Excellence grant program, possibly by quite a few months.

Note: the meeting was adjourned at 7:55, then reconvened to take the vote on 87 Locks Pond Road, then re-adjourned at 8:00.