

Lincoln Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Donaldson Room, Town Offices

Members Present: Steven Kanner, M.D.
Patricia Miller

Others Present: Stan Sosnicki, Asst. Public Health Director and Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next scheduled meetings will be on March 28, 2018 in the Donaldson Room. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2017 meeting as written. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Septic Review:

319 South Great Road – Mike DiModica, Engineer came before the Board to ask for 2 variances from local regulations as follows:

- (1) **LBHR 1.05 requires a minimum 100' setback from wetlands to the leaching field. A 75' separation is proposed**
- (2) **LBHR 1.06 requires the system to be increased by 50% to accommodate a garbage disposal. The system is not designed to accommodate a garbage disposal.**

Mr. DiModica said this property consists of 2 cess pools in failure. There is a dramatic drop from the front to the back property as shown in pictures provided to the members. This is a tough site with a high water table. There will be no expanded use of the property. It is not feasible to drop it out of the wetlands since it would require removing the driveway. It is a large leaching system because of the slow perc rate. If in sand it would only need to be 450' but this system is 1,200 sq. ft. The existing system is between 40-50 years old. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the variances as requested provided that the owner signs a deed restriction for no garbage grinder and records it in the Registry of Deeds. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

14 Old Cambridge Turnpike – Steve Nohrden, owner, and Jonathan Markey, Engineer came before the Board to ask for 1 local upgrade and 2 variances from the Lincoln Board of Health regulations as follows:

- (1) **310 CMR 15.405 requires a 4' separation to estimated seasonal high ground water. A 1' Reduction is requested in accordance with 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h).**
- (2) **LBHR 1.05 requires a minimum 100' setback from wetlands to the leaching field. A 50' Separation is proposed.**
- (3) **LBHR 1.06 requires the system size to be increased by 50% to accommodate a garbage disposal. The system is not designed to accommodate a garbage disposal**

Mr. Nohrden showed the members pictures of the land and structures and said he moved the tank when renovating his house. The foundation for the new garage with office space upstairs will be on top of the old leaching field, which is very shallow almost at grade. He has been through the Conservation Commission and has been approved for the location. There is no room at other areas because of ledge. The area for the proposed leaching field is good but no other area on the site would meet the 100' setback from wetlands. There were test holes to determine the high water, which shows a previous high water mark. If you raise the leaching field another foot, it would make a trench between the leaching field and the house where water could collect. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the local upgrade and 2 variances as requested provided that the owner signs a deed restriction for no garbage grinder and records it in the Registry of Deeds. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Discussions:

Plastic Bottle and Bag Ban: Lacy Bergeron, Julie Concanon, Anjuli Das and Nichole Garray of the L-S Environmental Club came before the members seeking support for the plastic bottle and bag ban going before Town Meeting on March 24. Lacy said the plastic bag ban applies only to bags with a handle and not to the ones used for fruits and vegetables and newspapers. It was suggested that people use the paper bags provided or bring or buy the reusable bags. Approximately 100,000 animals die every year from getting entangled in the bags or from swallowing them. 61 Massachusetts towns have passed the ban on plastic bags. This article passed in Sudbury. Patricia Miller said she had no problem with banning plastic bags but not the small fruit bags. Patricia Miller made a motion to support the ban on plastic bags to be brought before the Town Meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The group discussed the chemicals in bottles which are not regulated by the EPA and said that establishments can still make a profit on the alternative containers. They reached out to Donelan's who were not on board with it but are selling water now in boxes and will abide by the local laws but were not willing to talk about it. Now that Trail's End Lincoln is closing on March 2, there are only three establishments selling water in plastic bottles: Country Pizza, deCordova Café and Donelan's. Crosby's in Concord has said there has been no impact on their business since they stopped selling water in plastic bottles. The plastic bottle ban has been passed in Sudbury, Concord and Brookline. The group encouraged people to bring their own refillable water bottles or use aluminum or paper cartons that are available. They plan on installing hydration stations around Town in order to refill reusable bottles. There are already two hydration stations at the school. Dr. Kanner asked if they had done any economic analysis for other types of water containers but they had not done that. Dr. Kanner also wanted to know why this was limited to 1 liter or less plastic bottles and only applied to water and not juice drinks and soda. The group said they believe that 1 liter bottles are used the most and improperly disposed of. This is not a ban on carbonated or flavored water so there are options. The Board members felt that this encourages people to buy juice or soda, which is not good for you as opposed to water. At this point in the discussion, Chris Collins, Staff Advisor, angrily spoke up feeling that Dr. Kanner was badgering the group and felt that a vote to support or not support should be forthcoming. Dr. Kanner apologized to the girls and said he did not mean to offend them but had questions about the ban. Patricia Miller said the group needed to come up with a valid piece of data about the cost of the other alternatives to plastic since aluminum could be more expensive. Ms. Bergeron felt that this won't have a huge effect for a Lincoln ban but this is a starting point. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve going forward with the ban on 1 liter or less plastic water bottles at Town Meeting with some reservations and the need for additional information on the cost of alternatives to plastic. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with reservations.

Gas Leaks – Emily Haslett of Mothers Out Front came before the Board to ask for their support for the article before Town Meeting to protect consumers of gas and electricity from paying for leaked and unaccounted for gas. Ms. Haslett said this potent greenhouse gas destroys tree roots by depriving them of oxygen and is toxic to our health. Our gas comes from fracked gas from PA. All kinds of harmful chemicals are used to get the fracked gas. Consumers pay for leaked gas under a separate line item on your bill. The resolution would call for the gas company to pay for these leaks, which would hopefully result in getting the leaks fixed faster because they have no incentive to fix the leaks that are not a priority to them. Several states have already passed a bill to have gas companies pay for some of these leaks. There is estimated that \$135M of gas is wasted. Chief Carter and the Green Energy Committee have already agreed to endorse this article. She said the Weymouth gas line is now on hold. We will be up against powerful industries and need to be ready for a fight. It is worth sending letters and emails to Sen. Barrett. She will email the information to the Board about writing a letter. Patricia Miller made a motion to support Mothers Out Front and the article on gas leaks at Town Meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Green Burials – The Cemetery Committee had asked for an opinion from the Board on green burials in Lincoln. Stan said the body is wrapped and put in the ground and is not embalmed. If using the conventional method a casket gets lowered into a concrete vault, which keeps the ground from settling. The problem with green burials is the ground settles and you need to keep filling it in. The local funeral homes do not offer this at the present time. This is for people who do not want to be embalmed or cremated. Stan did not think that you can be buried on your property in Massachusetts and had no idea if this could contaminate water. The Lincoln cemetery has wetlands to a tributary in the lower part of the cemetery so that would not be an option there. Stan did say that there would be the option of placing the concrete vault over the body which would prevent the ground from settling. Dr. Kanner asked how long it takes for a body to decompose. Stan said in Columbia they dig them up in 4 years to reuse the space. Other towns in Massachusetts do allow this. The members felt they were generally

supportive of this if it is out of the wetlands to a tributary but would be interested in having a discussion with the Cemetery Committee.

Other Business:

Bills Paid – East Middlesex Mosquito Control - \$2,575; Town of Lexington – \$375.87 for Oct. 14 Hazardous Waste Collection and \$542.42 for Nov. 4 Hazardous Waste Collection

There being no further business, Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steven Kanner. The vote to approve was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Carroll