

**Lincoln Board of Health**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 16, 2018**  
**Donaldson Room, Town Offices**

Members Present: Frederick Mansfield, MD  
Steven Kanner, MD

(Member unavailable: Patricia Miller)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. The next scheduled meetings will be on June 20, 2018 in the Donaldson Room. Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2018 meeting as written. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**Septic Review:**

12 Hiddenwood Path – Bill Murphy, septic designer came before the Board to ask for 1 local upgrade and 1 variance from local regulations as follows:

- (1) **A 200' offset to a tributary to a surface water supply is required per 310 CMR 15.211. A 172' offset to the septic tank and 182' offset to the soil absorption system is proposed.**
- (2) **LBOH 1.06(A) (1) 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. Murphy said this is a Deck house with the septic system in front. This is environmentally sensitive area and not a lot of usable area with a 5-bedroom system. The leaching pit extends into the water table. The reduction would be 172' from the tank and 182' from the leaching field. There is good soil and will protect the wetlands by putting in erosion barrier. Mr. Murphy said this is a very shallow system to keep it out of the water table but it is a significant improvement. It is not feasible to keep it out of the 200' offset. Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the local upgrade and variance as presented provided that the owner signs a deed restriction for no garbage grinder and records it in the Registry of Deeds. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

38 Codman Road – Paul Carey, Engineer came before the Board to ask for 2 variances from the Lincoln Board of Health regulations as follows:

- (1) **A 100' offset to bordering vegetated wetlands is required per LBOH regulation 1.05(a). A 68.5' offset to the soil absorption system is proposed.**
- (2) **LBOH 1.06(A) (1) 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. Carey said the main historic house only has a bathroom used by tour guides. There is a 1-bedroom apartment in the cottage and a two-bedroom carriage house used for weddings. Mr. Carey could not find where the septic went to but the once the new system is in then the other components will be abandoned. There will be a two-compartment tank, which will be pumped up to sewer manholes. They will be combined all together with a primary septic tank to a secondary tank at the Carriage House. They will use a small Presby system, which is smaller in footprint in order to protect the granite steps that are where the existing leaching field is. The terraces will be restored when the system is done. With the smaller Presby system the offset will be 64' instead of 68.5'. There will be a manhole every 100' or so. There are a lot of buried utilities that they will try to find and protect. This project has been going on since before 2015 and Stan was out there doing soil tests 8 years ago. The septic for the Carriage House is in wetlands and will be abandoned. The location for the leaching field is an unfavorable place to put it because of the terraces, but is the only place they can put it. Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the 2 variances as presented provided that the owner signs a deed restriction for no garbage grinder and records it in the Registry of Deeds. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**Summer Camp Program:**

**Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program:**

Lovelane would like to have a camp for the first time. The State regulations for camps have changed and the camps have to follow the new rules. A lot of the requirements are already followed by Lovelane like CORIs and SORIs and licensed staff and a bathroom. The rules say you have to have the proper facilities with public water, no traffic problems and sanitary facilities. There will be six children at a time for 5 days. In order to apply for the first year the Board has to give their approval. Stan said they meet all the requirements and he needs to inspect the facilities before issuing a camp license. Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the Lovelane site as a recreational camp. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**Green Burial:**

Valerie Fox, Asst. Town Clerk, and Cemetery Commissioner Susan Harding came before the Board to discuss green burials. Some people have been inquiring about the possibility to have green burials in the cemetery and the Cemetery Commission is interested in looking into it and wants to get the opinion of the Board of Health. Stan said that most of the Lexington Road cemetery is within the Cambridge Watershed and there are also wetlands there. A green burial would be without embalming and the body would be placed in the ground with only dirt covering it. There is a concrete box that the casket is placed in with a concrete lid placed over it. This prevents the ground from sinking in as the body decomposes. This method is considered less toxic, simpler and less expensive. Mrs. Harding said that having heavy equipment on site is the reason for the vaults. Stan suggested having a designated area for green burials. The graves would be 3 ½ to 4’ and would need to be dug by hand as there could not be any heavy equipment used. The DPW crew does the work for digging the holes and lowering the caskets. Dr. Kanner said if in the water table a decomposing body could get into the water table and some contamination is possible. Mrs. Harding said the funeral director would not be involved and they are the ones who do all the paperwork. The process would be less expensive but more work for the Town staff to do the paperwork. Stan said the Board of Health has say over the expansion of a cemetery. Stan suggested doing test holes to check out the water table before seeking a new area to see what land is available. The Board is generally in favor of green burials for cost efficiency if done in the right area out of the wetlands and tributary. Valerie will contact Jamie O’Connell, Watershed Protection Supervisor for the City of Cambridge.

**Other Business:**

Bills Paid – Town of Lexington for April 14 collection - \$693.24; Gatehouse Media MA for legal notice - \$39.28; Eliot Community Human Services for first 3 quarters - \$3,750.

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There being no further business, Steve Kanner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Fred Mansfield. The vote to approve was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Elaine M. Carroll*