

**Halifax Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

On Wednesday, a meeting of the Halifax Board of Health was held at the Halifax Town hall.

Present at the meeting were:

Alan J. Dias, Co-Chairman
Steven A. MacFaun, Clerk
Robert Valery, Health Agent
Kelly Dwyer, Secretary

The Board of Health opened at 6:31pm and was filmed by Area58 Community Access Media. Pamela Engstrom, Kyle Devenish, and Amy Troup were present at the meeting.

Link to the YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVo5BOvNUdE>

1. Disposal Works Permits:

- a. 6 Ninth Avenue: Kyle, Outback Engineering.
 - i. Revisions Completed. Recommended for Approval.
 - ii. Kyle Devenish presented the plan and asked for upgrade approval for setback to leaching field from 400' to 175'.
 - iii. Board reviewed the plan. Co-Chair stated that he is familiar with the plan and confirmed that all the suggested changes and revisions have been completed.
 - 1. Co-Chair recommended that Health Agent use red pencil on the plan to add 6" to grade on the d-box.

A Motion was made to approve the plan for 6 Ninth Avenue with local upgrade approval allowing the reduction of the required setback from the proposed leaching field and subsurface water supplies from 400 to 175 feet.

**Motion: Alan Dias
Second: Steven MacFaun
Unanimous vote on the motion**

- b. 22 Carver Street: George Collins, Collins Engineering
 - i. Revisions Completed. Recommended for Approval.
 - 1. Health Agent stated that the system is still in breakout.
 - 2. The Board discussed using 45° bends, schedule 40 pipe and not an electrical sweep.
 - 3. Local Upgrade required.

A Motion was made to approve the plan with the local upgrade to reduce the required vertical separation from the soil underlying the soil absorption system to the high ground water elevation from 5 feet to 4 feet.

Motion: Alan Dias
Second: Steven MacFaun
Unanimous vote on the motion

- c. 73 Hemlock Lane: George Collins, Collins Engineering
 - i. Revisions Completed. Recommended for Approval.
 - 1. The Board discussed soils, chambers, and tanks.

A Motion was made to approve the plan as designed.

Motion: Alan Dias
Second: Steven MacFaun
Unanimous vote on the motion

2. Discussion Items:

- a. 163 Plymouth Street: Fines are being sent.
 - i. Health Agent stated that he is on his 7th day of sending 500-dollar fines to Fannie Mae.
 - 1. An Order of Corrections was also sent to Fannie Mae.
 - ii. There has been correspondence between The Health Agent and Real Estate Agent, however, there has been no correspondence with David Fox/Michael O'Donnell.
 - iii. Co-Chair stated that he was in contact with Town Council, and the only action The Town can take at this time is reaching out to the lawyer representing Fannie Mae to request expediting the cleanup.
 - iv. Clerk asked if anyone has seen activity there.
 - 1. Health Agent said he has not seen any activity, besides seeing within the last few weeks a white car one day and a blue car another day. Both cars were gone the same day, and he has not seen a person.
- b. Review Fee Schedule for Revisions
 - i. The Board Discussed fees, more specifically commercial disposal works permits for new installations.
 - 1. The Board discussed the new installation fee being competitive with other towns, however it is worth looking into fees for multiple inspections.
 - 2. Co-Chair mentioned that we should investigate additional fee schedules, and that it is mostly an issue primarily for commercial properties.
 - 3. Clerk added that it is not a “one-size-fits-all” fee and that he does not think that everyone should have to pay for one person’s lack of

knowledge. He stated that there should be a price, and if there are continuous inspections, then there should be an additional cost.

4. Health Agent added that a second inspection, is not a major inconvenience however when it results in 5, 10, 15 inspections, fines are worth looking into.
5. Co-chair proposed that The Board does research and come up with an inspection schedule. He added that it does not happen often with residential, but the schedule should be applied to both commercial and residential.

ii. Resident Amy Troup's questions and concerns:

1. Aren't all installers and testers required to pay a fee to do business in town?
2. We should not be penalizing people because the sellers need these things to sell their homes. Potential hinderance on people moving to town.
3. Reminded everybody that the Health Agent receives a weekly paycheck/salary, she feels putting a fee on sellers and buyers is doubling the part because the residents of Halifax pay a salary for this to occur.
 - a. The Board stated that the permit fee is intended for commercial buildings, as there is already a re-inspection fee.,
 - b. Clerk explained that The Board is not charging the actual person, it is a fee for mistakes made by the installer/engineer.
 - c. He added that every town has fees and charges and thinks this is a way to protect the town from potential issues and/or inexperienced installers.
 - i. "Get better at what you are doing, pay the fines, or don't work in our town."
4. Why are they not following the plan?
 - a. Health Agent answered this stating that the plan is already approved, however it is possible that he goes to inspect, and something is not up to code/requirements. By him going out and checking, it is saving the homeowner in the long run from potential issues that were not fixed at installation.
 - b. Co-Chair mentioned a Monponsett Street property that he had to inspect and at least 6 times that also needed additional perc tests.
 - c. Health Agent Bob Valery posed the question: "Would you rather pay seventy-five dollars today, or thousands down the road?"
 - d. Clerk asserted that this if is not for a 'regular joe', it is for installers who are making continuous mistakes, resulting in use of inspections, time, and resources.
5. The Board discussed and compared other towns fee schedules for inspections and continued inspections.

c. Mobile Home Estate Soil Evaluations

- i.** The Health Agent Bob Valery explained that the soil evaluations on file are from prior to 1995. There will foreseeably be clusters, and he used The Mobile Home Estates as an example. The number of homes in The Estates and to each other raised the question of “what circumference can cover a certain number of homes within a specific community”.
 - 1.** MacFaun added that within Title V regulations, it states that a way to review soils is looking at an observation hole within 150 feet, and presumes that there are 3-4 mobiles homes within 150 feet. MacFaun also stated the opinion that if they are on a flat area, every 5 would suffice. He raised the concern that if the soil evaluations performed every 20 feet instead, it will look like a bomb went off.
 - 2.** The Board discussed the systems being shared, and if it feasible to make a blanket “5” homes per soil test.
 - a.** Dias added that soils vary, he is not comfortable with adding a blanket number because soils vary. He suggested checking for consistency, and perhaps one hole between the homes.
 - b.** The Board discussed groundwater, draining, and having The Health Agent interpret the procedure to find the best way to go about this.
 - i.** Agent stated that he will print out a map of the estates to make a logical start.
 - ii.** Dias said that he would not trust a map, and believes The Health Agent must physically go there. He added that utility lines and water lines are in the wrong place. He has investigated the wells also.
 - 3.** Amy Troup asked if there was a problem over there, and if we are needing to re-do a lot of the septic systems.
 - a.** Clerk stated that it is not only an issue there. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has determined that The Estates must be inspected ever three years.
 - i.** Co-Chair stated that they are not shared systems. They are like condominium systems.
 - b.** Clerk explained the Title V regulation schedule for systems like the ones in the Mobile Home Park and Dias read the definition of a shared system.
 - 4.** The Board would like to discuss this at future meetings and recommended that The Health Agent reach out to engineers, research, and obtain all the information he needs to move forward.

d. Discussion on Permit for Connecting Rods

- i. Proposed Car Show with minimal information, and no COVID plan in place. The request sent into the selectmen said there could be up to 800 people.
- ii. Health Agent discussed that the group or representative should come in and share a proposed plan or agenda for the upcoming car shows that displays the proper protocols. Some of those protocols being food service, sanitation services, masks, and distancing.
- iii. Health Agent referred to the Fieldstone Horse Show, and the plan in place.
 1. Amy Troup said to The Board that she presumes they sent in the application because they need direction. She added that the horse shows have many people working for them and the car show is more for fun. Troup also stated that the Car Show uses the back field behind Walmart, if necessary or overflow and asked how many people are allowed in Walmart.
 - a. Agent's opinion is that Walmart is allowed more people in the store, under State Order than what he feels is appropriate.
 - i. Clerk stated that Walmart is tracking the numbers of customers.

e. Agent Report:

i. COVID-19 Update

1. Health Agent Bob Valery

- a. Within the last two weeks there has not been an increase in cases, however the testing rate has remained consistent.
- b. All homebound residents were vaccinated.
- c. The proposed Mass Vaccination Site at Bridgewater State University should be confirmed this week which will create a closer option for those wishing to be vaccinated.
 - i. The MassVax site would also send doses of the vaccine to the Town.
- d. Valery updated that Halifax is still in the red, but he is optimistic and there has not been an increase in deaths.

3. The Following to be signed:

- a. Notice of Sexual Harassment Policy The Board Read and signed.
- b. Payroll for the Week Ending April 24, 2021 The Board Signed.
 - i. Robert Valery, Health Agent
 - ii. Margaret Selter, Administrative Assistant
 - iii. Kelly Dwyer, Secretary
 - iv. Brian Kling, Animal Inspector
- c. Meeting Minutes: The Board Signed.
 - i. 03/17/21 Meeting Minutes
 - ii. 04/07/21 Meeting Minutes

- d. Expense Account# 01-512 – FY 21- The Board Signed.**
- i. WB Mason – Invoice# 217777183 – Color Toners – \$377.26
 - ii. Walmart – Agent Work Cell Phone Cover - \$39.97
 - iii. Amazon
 - 1. Hip Waders – Pond Sampling – 36.09
 - 2. Scuba Boots w/side Zipper – Pond Sampling –\$49.90
 - 3. Waterproof Rain Jacket – Outdoor Weather and Pond Sampling – \$48.09
- e. Revolving Account# 25-513 – FY 21- The Board Signed.**
- i. Spath Engineering – Invoice# - Plan Review – 73 Hemlock Lane - \$85.00.
 - ii. Webby Engineering – Invoice# - Plan Review – 22 Carver Street - \$85.00.
- f. Landfill Erosion Repair Account# 01-519-5840 – FY 21- The Board Signed.**
- i. David Penney – Rocky Meadow Enterprises:
 - 1. Repair Washout on Slope of Dump - \$3,000.00.
 - 2. Stone Box Rental - \$1,000.00.
- g. Permits:** *(With condition all required documents are submitted to the Board of Health office)*
- i. Stephen Burt – Burt’s Ice Cream Truck – 2021 Ice Cream Truck Services.
 - ii. Scott Clawson – Fieldstone Show Park – 2021 Horse Show, Large Outdoor Event (May/12-16 & 19-23, June 5&6, 23-27 & 30, July 1-3 & 7-11, August 18-22 & 24-29, and September 8-12, 2021)
 - iii. Lawrence MacDonald – Mr. Perfection Inc, DBA Loco Larry’s Taco’s – 2021 Mobile Food Truck – 05/12/21 – 09/12/21 Fieldstone Show Park Events.
 - iv. Connecting Rods – Walmart Car Show – 2021 Seasonal Establishment Permit
 - v. James Bertoni – Surf Dogz - 2021 Mobile Food Truck – 05/12-16, 2021 and May 19-23, 2021– Fieldstone Show Park Events.
 - vi. William Dyer – W.L.D. Excavating Co., - 2021 Septic Installer’s Permit.
 - vii. Conrad A. Cayting – Cayting Construction - 2021 Septic Installer’s Permit.
 - viii. Patrick Murphy – Murphy Bros. Excavating, LLC - 2021 Septic Installer’s Permit.
 - ix. Michael Wilson – Reliable Excavations - 2021 Septic Installer’s Permit.
 - x. Joseph Kehoe – Joseph F. Kehoe Contracting - 2021 Title V Inspector’s Permit.

A Motion was made to approve permits i-x with a hold on permit #ii Fieldstone Show Park until The Board of Health receives water testing results and excluding permit iv ‘Connecting Rods’ for discussion.

Motion: Alan Dias
Second: Steven MacFaun

Adjournment

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm.

Motion: Alan Dias

Second: Steven MacFaun

Unanimous vote on the motion

Typed by,
Kelly Dwyer, Secretary

Signed By:

Steven A. MacFaun, Chair

~You can receive an official signed copy of meeting minutes at the Board of Health Office~