



**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER**  
11 South Street  
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01473  
(978) 874-7409 • Fax (978) 874-7462  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2021**  
**Board of Health Meeting, Room 205, 4:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Board of Health members Dr. Michael Popik, Chairman; Mr. Chris Redkey, Mr. Ed Simoncini, Ms. Ann Loree, Health Agent., Mr. David Harwood, GeoInsight, Inc., Mr. David Maclean, GeoInsight, Inc., via phone, Mr. Lenard Ingman via phone.

Dr. Popik called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Voucher signed for ETR Invoices - Town Farm Road water tests.

**New Business:**

**Town Farm Road Well Study –**

Mr. Simoncini summarized the issue with elevated levels of Sodium Chloride and Manganese affecting several homes on Town Farm Road. The Westminster Department of Public Works will address the issue by extending town water line to affected homes. The Board of Health is interested in a study to determine if the affected area is a growing issue and if elevated levels are expanding beyond the current affected area.

Mr. David Harwood and Mr. David MacClean of GeoInsight, Inc. provided a presentation outlining written proposal. Mr. Harwood and Mr. Maclean explained task one of proposal will be to do mapping of the area and compile a conceptual model. Task one will provide an estimate of salt levels. The second phase would be to sample additional wells. Mr. Harwood said the study can begin as soon as all historical sampling, lab reports and property addresses are provided.

Ms. Loree will provide Mr. Harwood and Mr. Maclean all Town Farm Road data if GeoInsight is hired to conduct the study.

Ms. Loree will speak with Town Administrator Mark Hawke regarding procurement rules, process, and funds available in the Board of Health budget to hire a hydrogeologist.

Mr. Simoncini presented the Board with the contact information for Geosphere Environmental Management, Inc. Mr. Simoncini suggested the Board consider sending a Request for Proposal to Geosphere. Ms. Loree will contact Geosphere Environmental Management, Inc. to request proposal and attendance at March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.



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**141A Bragg Hill Road, Lenard Engman -**

Mr. Engman provided a summary of his request for a small addition on an existing home for an in-law apartment.

Ms. Loree, downstairs room from a bedroom to a family room. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, has an extra room

Ms. Simoncini referred to Title V regulation. Board members reviewed the proposed plans and confirmed room count and bedroom count: Eleven rooms, divided by two equals a total of 5 bedrooms. Deed restriction for 4 bedrooms.

Mr. Simoncini inquired about the seasonal high water. Ms. Loree said the report was not available at the time of the Board meeting.

Mr. Simoncini said the property will need a recorded deed restriction. Ms. Loree will send the deed restriction to Mr. Engman.

**Old Business:**

**Covid Cluster –**

Ms. Loree informed that Board of a COVID cluster at a local church. Ms. Loree said the church members attended an onsite private activity that was held outside. Ms. Loree said the attendance was under the capacity set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines.

**Port-a-Pottie Regulations –**

Dr. Popik reviewed current regulations and provided a draft of new suggested regulations. Board members will review the draft and discuss at the March 17 meeting.

**Board Concerns:**

**Montachusett Public Health Network Contract and MAVEN Database –**

Board members are concerned that the MPH is not abiding by the contract for services that was approved and signed by the Board of Health in 2020. Ms. Loree explained that due to the increase in COVID workload, the MPH staff had asked Ms. Loree to be trained on the MAVEN database and to assist with follow up of COVID cases for the Town of Westminster, a service which is currently provided by MPH nurses. Dr. Popik sent an email to Steven Curry, Health Director, City of Fitchburg for clarification on the specific services MPH provides to the Town of Westminster. Board members discussed the cost of the annual contract and the value of MPH services.



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**Public Water Supply Wells –**

Mr. Simoncini reviewed yearly water supply reports from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts database. Mr. Simoncini provided results pertaining to water quality of public water supply wells at Ranor and Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. Mr. Simoncini noted that high values of some minerals were detected and the results may warrant additional investigation.

Ms. Loree will investigate the public water supply well reports for Ranor and Wachusett Mountain Ski Area and will provide update at next meeting.

**Health Agent Update:**

**Annual Report –**

Ms. Loree and Board members reviewed and updated the Annual Report draft. Ms. Loree noted the final report is due to the Town Administrator's office by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Flu Clinics –**

Ms. Loree provided update on flu vaccine order schedule and prices. Ms. Loree said Dr. Todd Stewart, Superintendent, Ashburnham/Westminster School District will provide assistance and staff for a flu clinic to be held in the fall of 2021. Dr. Popik noted that the Mount Wachusett Community College nursing program nursing students may be able to assist with the clinic. Ms. Loree will follow up with Dr. Stewart in writing and the Board will continue flu vaccine order discussion at the March 17 meeting.

**Massachusetts Health Officers Association Conference -**

Ms. Loree said she and Abby Conlin, Assistant Health Agent will attend the virtual conference to be held as two half-day sessions on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Loree and Dr. Popik reviewed the agenda. Ms. Loree will email the conference details to Mr. Redkey and Mr. Simoncini.

**COVID Vaccine Clinics information –**

Ms. Loree said the Town of Westminster will send a flyer to all residents with information for the regional clinic held at the Polish American Citizens Club and contact information for vaccine assistance.

**Odor Complaints –**

Ms. Loree reviewed the landfill odor complaints.



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**COVID Compliance Site Visit –**

Ms. Loree said no Covid compliance issues were observed at a recent site visit to Wachusett Mountain.

Dr. Popik made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Simoncini. Adjourn at 6:26 pm.

Dr. Michael Popik

H. Christopher Redkey

Edward Simoncini

**Attachments:**

GeolInsight Proposal  
141A Bragg Hill Road Proposed Plan