



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

Minutes for April 21, 2021
Board of Health Meeting, Room 205, 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Board of Health members Dr. Michael Popik, Chairman; Mr. H. Chris Redkey, Mr. Ed Simoncini, Ms. Ann Loree, Health Agent; Elizabeth Penney, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Greg Martin, Ms. Cindy Vincent

Minutes were approved as amended for January 20. Minutes were approved as presented for February 3.

New Business:

87 Ellis Road - Mr. Greg Martin –

Ms. Loree reviewed the letter of request and proposed house plans submitted by Mr. Greg Martin. Ms. Loree noted the house was demolished. A shed on the property was not demolished. Ms. Loree reviewed the living space calculation and a letter from Mr. Chris Mossman regarding a variance on the well. A hearing was requested to review the following: The new house total square footage needs to be 15% or less increase, whether a room to be used as home theater could be used as a bedroom, the approved plan in 2019 did not include the new house. Board members reviewed the amended septic plan that was approved by the previous Health Agent and the Board in 2019. The amended plan included a variance from Mr. Chris Mossman for estimated seasonal high ground water.

Mr. Simoncini noted the variance is on the well. There are no variances on the septic system. The demolition of the house is mute. Board members reviewed number of rooms and number of bedrooms and deemed the proposed house complies with Title 5 and Westminster regulations.

Dr. Popik made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Redkey. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Town Farm Road – Ms. Loree reviewed the response from Town Counsel Jeffry T. Blake, Esq. regarding potential liability if they do not investigate water issue on Town Farm Road. Attorney Blake stated he is of the opinion that the Board is not liable in the future if they do not investigate Town Farm Road water issue.

Mr. Simoncini provided summary of his response to the Town Administrator with a request for more clarification. The Town Administrator responded and will investigate Mr. Simoncini's concern. The Board determined if no response is received from the Town Counsel, issue will be on agenda until a response is received.



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Hydrogeologist Update - Dr. Popik suggests the staff follow up with Mr. Talkington, Hydrogeologist to inform him that due to current legal advice of town, the Board of Health will not be moving forward with the study at this time. Liz will send an email to Mr. Talkington.

Well Project Intern Update – Ms. Loree said an intern was interviewed and accepted the summer position; however, the intern decided to decline the position. The Human Resources Director is working on finding another intern.

Board Concerns:

COVID Re-opening Phases - Parades - Dr. Popik commented that the Westminister Little League announced they are participating in the Memorial Day Parade. Ms. Loree said the Assistant Health Agent reached out to the Veterans Agent to confirm if a parade is in being planned. Dr. Popik noted based on the current re-opening phase, parades are not allowed.

Agent Update:

Noise complaints – Ms. Loree reviewed a letter of complaint from a resident regarding noise occurring in late March and early April from a type of outdoor equipment. Ms. Loree spoke with the resident to inquire about the time-of-day noise occurs. Ms. Loree contacted the resident a second time the week of April 15 to find out if the noise is continuing and asked the resident to follow up if the noise continues to be intolerable.

Ms. Loree reviewed a complaint received from a resident regarding noise from a motorcycle in mid-state trail area, across Crocker pond. Ms. Loree advised the resident to call when the motorcycle is in use and Ms. Loree will investigate if the noise continues to be unbearable.

Dr. Popik commented that during the recent candidate's night, a question was received regarding how the Board of Health follows up and responds to noise complaints.

Prom at Wachusett Mountain – Ms. Loree was contact by Mahar Principal Scott Hemlin regarding a prom to be held at Wachusett Mountain. Ms. Loree noted that the administration provided a detailed plan outlining COVID protocol and a copy of consent form participants will sign. Per Dr. Popik's request, Ms. Loree received permission to use the plan as a template to provide to other schools hosting proms in Westminister.

Recovery Centers of America – The Board of Health office received a complaint from a patient regarding mask violations. Ms. Loree forwarded the complaint to the State Bureau of Substance Abuse treatment facilities and requested the office follow up with RCA staff directly to address the ongoing issues.

Mask Violations - Ms. Loree visited local businesses and observed issues with COVID-19 mask compliance issues. The first establishment received a verbal warning. The second establishment had received a verbal warning several months ago and will now receive a certified letter.



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The third establishment, Ms. Loree observed one staff working in the back area without a mask, Ms. Loree noted the staff member has a health issue, Ms. Loree spoke with management regarding staff member submitting a physician's note as well as possible use of a face shield.

Board members reviewed the procedure regarding mask issues to include three steps: verbal warning, certified letter -second warning in writing noting that one more offense the business will come before the Board and will be fined.

Odor Complaint - Ms. Loree noted one odor complaint at landfill.

Farmer's Market- Ms. Loree reviewed request from the M..L. Altobelli, Chair of Agricultural Commission and Assistant Health Agent to consider changing cost of permit fee for the egg vendors. Ms. Loree said the topic has come up the last few years. The Board made a determination that vendor fee will not be changed for egg vendors.

BOH members discussed COVID restaurant guidelines that apply to food trucks. Ms. Loree said one application has been received for food truck for 2021 season.

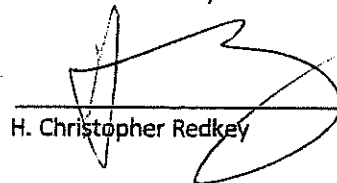
Mr. Simoncini noted the Site Assignment hearing will most likely will be held in August or September.

BOH members discussed renovation project at Wachusett Brewery and dog park area. Mr. Redkey suggested review of dog park policy.

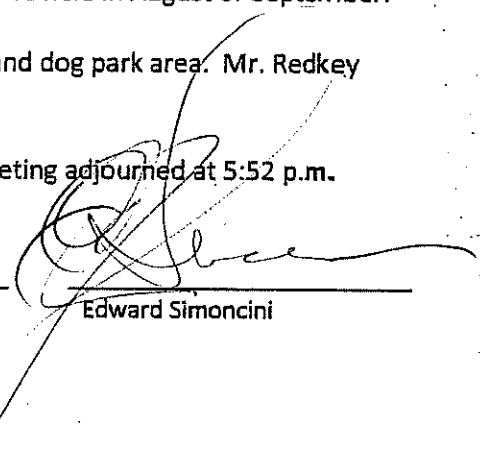
Motion made by Dr. Popik to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Redkey. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Dr. Michael Popik



H. Christopher Redkey



Edward Simoncini

Attachments:

87 Ellis Road plan documents

Town Counsel Response – Town Farm Road

Maher H.S. Prom Guide

Letter of Request re: Egg Vendor fee/Farmer's Market