



**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER**  
**11 South Street**  
**WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01473**  
**(978) 874-7409 • Fax (978) 874-7460**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2015 BOH MEETING**

Board of Health Members in Attendance: Edward Simoncini, Peter Munro; Health Agent Wibby Swedberg; Administrative Assistant Joyce Lucander; Jon & Tina Wyman, Wyman's Auto; Richard Gonzales, home owner; Cynthia Vincent, town resident;

4:30 p.m. Peter announced that the meeting was open and was being recorded by Joyce.

4:30 p.m. Vouchers were approved and signed for Rita gas mileage for March, Wibby gas mileage for March & reimbursement for National Environmental Health Association, MHOA Community Sanitation Program Annual Spring Seminar.

Wibby handed the Board a copy of the water testing that had been done on the shallow well at Wyman's Auto on 2/11/2014 showing coliform bacteria absent. She also gave the Board a copy of Minutes from August 2011 when the Board met with the previous owner of Atlas Motors when the well and septic were discussed. The Board also received a copy of the letter sent to Richard Gonzales, 35 Woodland Drive, and a copy of the work order from Wind River Environmental.

**Agents Update:**

Received an application for the septic loan program from an elderly couple that meets the guidelines. They are getting the bids together. The Board approved the application. Wibby will continue the application process with them.

**Board Members Concerns:**

None at the moment.

4:42 p.m. Jonathan & Tina Wyman, Wyman's Auto re septic & well. Jonathan discussed with the Board their intentions of trying to hook up to town water. Jon will discuss with Joshua Hall at the DPW how much this will cost. The second option would be a new well; current shallow well is 38 feet from the proposed tight tank. Jon will see what Gagne will charge for a new well. The Board would want the water to be done before the tight tank goes in. Wibby suggested getting 3 quotes from installers for the tight tank. The Board asked Jon & Tina to come to the first meeting in June to discuss further.

4:48 p.m. Richard Gonzales homeowner 35 Woodland Drive. Wibby told the Board Ryan Smith has called her in September 2014 to look over the condition of the D-Box at 35 Woodland Drive. Ryan had received a call from the owner Richard Gonzales that the septic system was backing up. The D-box was filled with sludge. Whitman and Bingham did a deep hole and perc test in September to determine the estimated seasonal high ground water which Wibby witnessed. After determining that the leaching trenches were in the groundwater Whitman and Bingham designed a new septic system and submitted it for review. Wibby was waiting for payment from the homeowner for plan review when Whitman and Bingham called to say the homeowner had other work done on the system and no longer felt he needed a new system.

Mr. Gonzales spoke to the Board saying he had not had the septic tank pumped for about 10 years and felt that was why the solids had filled the D-box and the leaching trenches. He said that Ryan said he would need a new leaching field. Whitman & Bingham did come out and looked for a place on the property to put the field. Mr. Gonzales said he had waited for 5 weeks to hear back and when he hadn't he called Wind River Environmental who jetted out the leaching pipes, cleaned out the D-box, put a riser on the D-box and an effluent filter in the outlet T of the septic tank. He felt the system was now working fine. The Board's concern is that if the trenches are in the groundwater the system is contaminating the ground water.



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Wibby explained that the difficulty at this site is that the soils are mostly sand and it can be very difficult to determine the estimated seasonal high water table in sand. We do have recent testing at a neighboring property on South Ashburnham Rd but the elevations are quite different.

The Board discussed what the next steps should be. Ed would like to review the original septic plan and As-Built along with the new plan designed by Whitman and Bingham. The Board asked Wibby to get a hold of Ryan Smith and ask about what company he had used for pumping out the septic tank. We have no records in the file. The Board would also like to discuss the work that had been done by Wind River Environmental at another meeting: how did they use Royal Flush who is listed on their report and what chemicals did they use in the jetting out. Wibby will also let Mr. Gonzales know the outcome of the meeting and ask him to attend a future meeting if the Board desires.

5:44 p.m. Discuss next steps regarding the town considering joining the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project. Wibby shared we had gotten a quote last year from a private company that will do the mosquito surveillance testing separately. She feels this is the most vital part of mosquito control as it informs a town when WNV or EEE is found in the mosquitos so they can educate the public on the need for extra vigilance in using insecticides and avoiding dusk to dawn outdoor activities. Last fall the state was not informed by the lab until a month after the horse had died from EEE. The state veterinarian, Dr. Katie Brown, had called us the same day they learned of it. If mosquito pools in the area had been tested we would likely have learned of the danger much earlier. Ed asked Wibby to look into data on what percentage of towns that later had an animal or human case of WNV or EEE had an early warning from mosquito surveillance testing.

The Board shared ideas on checking with other departments such as Conservation & the Advisory Board to see how supportive they might be in joining a Mosquito Control Project. They talked about working on an information sheet for the town's website, bulletin boards and in the newspapers. See if this will be something that the Town would want to do in the future.

5:58 p.m. Peter made a motion to adjourn. Ed seconded the motion. All were in favor

5:58p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Andrea Crete

Edward Simoncini

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Andrea Crete, Chairman

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Peter Munro

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Edward Simoncini

Minutes were signed by Board members on 4/15/2015      Original signatures on file in BOH office.

**Attachments:**

Letter from Wibby on 35 Woodland Drive dated March 19, 2015 about failure of system.

Work order from Wind River Environmental

ETR Laboratories water Test for 191 State Road West

Minutes from Board of Health Meeting August 17, 2011 on Atlas Motors, now Wyman's Auto Repair