



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

7:30 PM.

Hybrid Meeting COA Building 30 Sudbury Rd and via Zoom

Present:

Members Present: Mark Conoby – Chairman and William McInnis

Virtual Members Present: Dr. William Taylor and Dr. Rekha Singh

Staff Present: Penelope Funaiole – Health and Family Services Director and Matthew Dow – Environmental Health Director

Others Present: Alissa Nicol – Select Board Liaison, David Formato – PE from Fuss & O’Neill and Ian Shenkman – Owner of Dover Heights

Others Present Virtually: Alek Chongris – Chongris Engineering

1. Opening

Chairman – Mark Conoby opened the meeting at 7:34 PM. A script was read that was provided by the Town and this meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

2. Regular Business

Any Board Members Future Agenda Items

Board members discussed future agenda items being placed at the end of the Board of Health meeting, not at the beginning.

Environmental Health Director Update

Boardwalk School Monitoring Wells

Mr. Dow reported that he had reached out to Marc Hamel who oversees the testing. Marc was open to having another round of testing and hoped to get the results to Matt by the end of the week or beginning of next week. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for January 28th.

Rapscallion Update

Mr. Dow conducted a seat count at lunch that day and found 64 seats, an increase from 57 seats at the last meeting in November. The board discussed sending a follow-up letter stating that



enforcement action would occur on the next exceedance. They also discussed conducting another follow-up count.

Gould's Plaza Update

Mr. Dow reported that soil testing was done the previous week. The owner and engineer were on board with nitrogen reduction technology on all systems. They planned to keep the design under 10,000 gallons per day and should have a plan within 2 weeks.

Hazardous Waste Day

Mr. Dow informed the Board that the budget line was cut, reducing hazardous waste days to once a year. The scheduled date is Saturday, June 21st from 9 to 11:30 AM at the DPW building. The board discussed the possibility of charging a fee for the service to potentially increase frequency.

New Staff Update

Mr. Dow introduced two new part-time staff members: Yan Li, who holds degrees in chemical engineering and computer science, and Jennifer Schmidt, who has 15 years of experience as a food scientist.

Nursing Service Update

Mr. Dow reported that since the last meeting on November 19th, the Acton nursing services had treated 40 cases of influenza and 38 cases of COVID.

Health and Family Services Director Update

Public Health Nurse Position

Mrs. Funairole reported they were working on an inter-municipal agreement with the town of Littleton to share a public health nurse. They hoped to present this to the Select Board for review on January 27th or 28th.

State Public Health Services Review

Mrs. Funairole discussed an ongoing state review of public health services across Massachusetts, which would involve a detailed assessment of time allocation for various health department activities.

Community Health Needs Assessment



Mrs. Funaiole reported they were working on setting up the bidding process for a community health needs assessment contractor.

Mobility Assessment

Mrs. Funaiole mentioned an ongoing mobility assessment project looking at the town's transportation system.

Fall Prevention Campaign

Mrs. Funaiole mentioned plans for a fall prevention campaign in collaboration with Police and the Council on Aging.

3. New / Special Business

209 School Street – Local Upgrade Approval Requested in Accordance with 15.405(1)(J)

Alek Chongris, an engineer representing the property at 209 School Street, presented a request for local upgrade approval for a septic system upgrade. The main issue was the need for less than a 12-inch separation for the inlet and outlet tees from estimated high groundwater.

Alek explained that the existing septic system was already set in place, with the building sewer coming out at or near groundwater levels. The proposed system would include watertight inlets, and there were no other options for the site due to the existing house and inability to change the sewer invert.

The board discussed the details of the proposed system, including its distance from the foundation and the use of schedule 40 piping with watertight connections.

After discussion, the board voted to approve the request with conditions noted.

Motion to approve with the conditions as noted was made by Mr. McInnis and seconded by Dr. Singh. The motion passed unanimously.

117 Central Street, Dover Heights: Discussion about I/A Requirements

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion with David Formato from Fuss & O'Neil and Ian Shankman, the owner of Dover Heights, regarding the implementation of Innovative/Alternative (I/A) technology for their septic system.

Key points of the discussion included:



1. The system had failed inspection over two years ago and needed to be upgraded to meet current regulations.
2. The property owners proposed installing the leaching field this year but requested additional time to implement the required recirculating sand filter or equivalent technology.
3. The Board and property owners debated the timeline for implementation, discussing the regulations and permit deadlines set by both the local Board and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
4. The property owners expressed concern about potential future development of the site and how that might affect the septic system requirements.
5. The Board emphasized the need for a clear plan and timeline for full compliance with regulations.

After extensive discussion, the Board and property owners agreed on the following approach:

1. The property owners would submit a complete design plan, including the field and recirculating sand filter or equivalent technology, within 60 days.
2. Construction of the field would begin in the spring of 2025.
3. The recirculating sand filter or equivalent technology would be implemented by October 31, 2026, in line with the DEP deadline.
4. The property owners would maintain their current practice of pumping the system twice a year as a compensating factor for the extended timeline.

The Board requested that the property owners submit a formal plan with these details for review and approval at a future meeting.

Minutes – November 19, 2024

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes from November 19, 2024. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:28 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday January 28, 2025

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;



- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda
- 209 School Street BOH notice
- 209 School Street septic variance letter
- 209 School Street septic plan
- 117 Central Street letter to Board
- 117 Central Street email from Engineer
- 117 Central Street letter from State
- Board of Health meeting minutes from 11/19/24

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew R. Dow
Matthew Dow
Environmental Health Director

Mark Conoby, Chairman
Acton Board of Health