

Town of Lakeville
Board of Health
January 5, 2022 6pm

Members present: Chairman Maxim, Member Spratt, Member Poillucci, and Health Agent Ed Cullen. Chairman Maxim called the meeting to order at 6pm. This was a remote meeting recorded by LakeCam.

10 Surrey Drive - Meet with Collins Civil Engineering Group to discuss local upgrade approval and variance request. Peter Lyons from Collins Engineering was present for discussion. This is a repair of a currently failed system. They are contending with on-site wells in the front of the property and the front yard of the abutting properties to the east and west. This site is bordered by a wetland to the south, however, they are well outside of the buffer zone. Soils conditions on this site were good. They will be installing a gravity system to a 17'x29' leaching bed, replacing the existing leaching pit. This site has somewhat high groundwater, which is 5' at the test pits. In order to maintain a gravity system, they are requesting a local upgrade approval allowing a reduction from 4' to 3' between the bottom of the system to high groundwater. This will allow for a gravity system rather than a pump system as well as keep the grading down a foot over the proposed leaching field. The second request is the use of a grain size analysis instead of a perc test. The reason for this request is that they are proposing a 7' strip out to reach the medium coarse sands. Chairman Maxim said there is no elevation on the septic pipe leaving the house. He asked if it was under the floor or would it have to get raised because its too low. Mr. Lyons said they know due to the current conditions, that they need to raise it up. They show it at 48.6. Chairman Maxim asked if that was the most they could raise it and keep 9" over the tank. Mr. Lyons said they are looking for the 1' reduction so they only have 3.1' to the bottom of the system, everything else is minimum pitch or just above, back to the house. That gives them the lowest elevation they can work from. Generally, they can bring the plumbing up a little higher, but they can at least get it to the proposed design point. Chairman Maxim questioned the water table elevation. The percs are consistent at 60 and 62", and there's about 1/10th difference with the elevation contour of the ground. But they carried that for the 3' to the water table, but if you look where you're 13' off the deck, that very corner point on the septic field, that's elevation 50. So, if they're carrying 5' to water, if its following the contour of the ground, you're at 45 and your bottom of system is at 46.60 which only gives 1'6" to the water table at that corner. Mr. Lyons said the seasonal high groundwater is assigned at a specific elevation. It's not through the site, it's 60" where the test pit was taken. Chairman Maxim said he knew they have to be 100' from the wetland without filing, but would it be feasible to move it back further off the existing leaching pit, more over the test pit where the contour goes down. Maybe it would keep it out of the 50 contour and maybe not having to remove that old pit, instead of crush and fill. Mr. Lyons said all of the groundwater elevations have already been determined, if they move the system it would only be a benefit if the groundwater got lower. Member Poillucci said if the grades are going down, and the water table stays in the same distance off the surface, moving it back down there you really wouldn't have to change any of the pitches. You wouldn't have to change anything to the house because the property is already pitching down and then you could get farther away. Mr. Lyons said the field wouldn't get any lower, based on the elevation of the assigned groundwater. The field wouldn't get any lower, and as you start coming down the hill, you're going to end up with the field trying to poke through the existing grades. The top of the system is 47.6, so 48.6 is the minimum cover. Agent Cullen asked if they could get out of the 50' contour and make a longer, skinnier field; take out

the first two rows of chambers and just extend the length. You'd still have the same number of chambers, you'd be out of the 50, and you wouldn't move any further down toward the wetland. Mr. Lyons didn't see what the benefit would be as they weren't anticipating groundwater being any higher in that corner of the site. Agent Cullen asked Mr. Lyons what the reasoning was for not doing a longer skinnier field and following the 49' contour rather than 50' contour. Mr. Lyons said he wasn't the engineer that did this design, so he wasn't sure what the other engineer's intent was. This is typically the profile of the system they go for, the more of a square they get, the cheaper the design cost is. They could stretch it out if necessary, they didn't feel that the conditions warranted it. Sometimes, they do a condition that the Board of Health can do a verification of the groundwater at the open hole inspection. They would prefer not to change the design. The Board agreed that a test pit could be done at the time of construction. Member Spratt asked if the bigger concern was the mound, the pump, or both. Mr. Lyons said it was the pump. They would have about a 1' contour change without a variance. The issue would be getting the plumbing high enough in the house to meet the tank elevation. Agent Cullen asked if it had been determined that that is the highest the plumbing can go? Mr. Lyons said he didn't personally check it, but when they are out at the perc test Mr. Collins goes in the house. They will get a maximum that it can be raised and then they work from the groundwater, design the field elevations and the tank and back to the house and see if they are within that tolerance. The further they move down the hill, the higher the level at the house needs to be. Chairman Maxim said if Agent Cullen is ok with verifying water table at the open hole, as long as they have 3'.

Upon a motion made by Member Spratt, seconded by Member Poillucci, it was:

Voted: to approve the subsurface sewage disposal system upgrade at 10 Surrey Drive with the two local upgrade approval requests and contingent upon the open hole inspection of the water table by the Health Agent at the 50' contour.

Unanimous approval.

Review and approve meeting minutes as typed for October 6, 2021-

Upon a motion made by Member Spratt, Chairman Maxim stepped down to second, it was:

Voted: to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from October 6, 2021 as typed.

Two in favor, 1 abstention (Poillucci).

Review and approve meeting minutes as typed for December 15, 2021 - continued

Upon a motion made by Member Spratt, seconded by Member Poillucci, it was;

Voted: to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from December 15, 2021 as typed.

Unanimous approval.

COVID 19 update - Agent Cullen said the number of cases are way up, hospitalizations are up as well. The one good thing is that the number of deaths aren't at the peak of what they were last winter. The number of cases increases every day as well as the percent of positivity. We have over 20% positivity which means of the number of people testing, 20% are positive whereas typically that number was 4 or 5. A lot of people are testing at home now, so they're not even being recorded. So, the number of cases is a lot higher than what the statistics are showing right now. Residents are urged to take precautions

and if they have any symptoms, get tested. Taunton is opening up a vaccination clinic tomorrow. The main goal is keeping people out of the hospital.

Executive Session -

Chairman Maxim stepped down to make a motion, seconded by Member Poillucci, it was:

Voted: to go into Executive Session and not return to open session after the Executive Session.

Unanimous approval.