

TOWN of HINGHAM
BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

April 20, 2023

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held in the East Hearing Room, Hingham Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts. Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:45am.

Members Present

Peter Bickford, Chair
Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member
Rosemary Byrne, N.P., Member

Staff Present

Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

Public Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft of the meeting minutes of March 23, 2023.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Ms. Byrne, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2023, as amended.**

Members in favor: Eldredge, Byrne and Bickford

Members opposed: none

Action Items:

73 Abington Street, New Construction

Mr. Josh Green, P.E., Representative for the Applicant, Crocker Design Group
Mr. Patrick Brennan, P.E., PGB Engineering and Consulting Engineer for the Town of Hingham

- Mr. Green is requesting approval for the septic design/new construction at 73 Abington Street along with an application for two variances. These variances are from the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations for Code/Section VII.J and Code/Section VII.M (1).
- Mr. Bickford asked for further explanation of the mounded area shown on the plan. Mr. Green explained that the mound would be approximately 6ft and then will slope. This will be on the backside of the building which cannot be seen from the street.
- Mr. Green confirmed for Mr. Bickford that there would be no retaining wall.
- Mr. Brennan reviewed the plans and confirmed that the comments made in the February 28, 2023, letter have been addressed. The original comments addressed by Mr. Brennan and current status of these request can be reviewed in the March 15, 2023, letter to the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, and seconded by Ms. Byrne and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the Application for Variance/Divergence request from the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations, Code/Section VII.J and Code/Section VII.M (1) and the approval for the development of the proposed septic system.**

Members in favor: Eldredge, Byrne and Bickford

Members opposed: none

Appointment of the Animal Inspector

Ms. Leslie Badger, Hingham Animal Control Officer

- Per Chapter 129, Section 15 Inspector of Animals; Appointment
- Ms. Leslie Badger was before Board to confirm her appointment as Animal Inspector
- Thereafter, a motion was made by Ms. Byrne, and seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the appointment by the Board of Health for the Town of Hingham Animal Inspector, Ms. Leslie Badger.**

Members in favor: Eldredge, Byrne and Bickford

Members opposed: none

170 Chief Justice Cushing Highway

Mr. James Garfield, P.E., Representative for Applicant, Morse Engineering Co., Inc.

Mr. John Chessia, P.E., Chessia Consulting Services, Consulting Engineer for the town of Hingham

- Mr. Garfield recapped the 3 bedroom septic system design for 170 Chief Justice Cushing Highway for the Board. The primary field complies with both state and local regulations. However, the reserve has a 2ft mound which complies to the state Title 5 but requesting a variance from the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations Code/Section VII.M(1) as well as a variance for Code/Section VII.P 18” required between the bottom of the cellar floor and maximum groundwater. These plans have been approved by Planning Board.
- Mr. Chessia confirmed the area of test pits and that these tests showed shallow depth to ledge and would need to request a variance.
- Mr. Bickford and Ms. Byrne asked about the abutting houses and wanted to make sure that requesting the variance does not affect the surrounding homes.
- Both Mr. Chessia and Mr. Garfield explained the location of the site of the proposed dwelling and where the yard slopes and how some of the abutting homes are higher than the proposed dwelling.
- Dr. Eldredge commented that although this is not in the Zone II area as it is indicated, the nitrogen level of 14.29 mg/l is higher than the acceptable 10 mg/l concentration.
- Mr. Chessia confirmed that this is not in the Zone II area. This number is data as there are no regulations outside of Zone II for these higher readings. He believes this higher reading (higher than 10) is coming from the lawn fertilizer.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Ms. Byrne, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the requested variances that are Code/Section VII M (1.) and Code/Section VII P from the town of Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations. This approval comes with the conditions that the spot grades are at the corners of the garage and the primary and reserve field are to be excavated prior to any construction. If there are any findings of ledge by the installer and engineer, they are to contact the Health Department. A letter from the Weir River Water Company is also to be submitted for approval.**

Discussion

- Board members discussed the position of Chairperson for the upcoming year. Mr. Bickford will continue for another year as Chairperson.
- Ms. Byrne asked how she would go about getting on the agenda for future topics. It was recommended that she contact Ms. Sarni.

New Business

- No new business.

EHO REPORT

- No updates or discussion

Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 7:45am Friday.

Adjournment

The public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 9:15am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *BOH of Health Meeting Agenda*
- *Board of Health Public Meeting Minutes from*
- *Application for Variance/Divergence for 73 Abington Street*
- *Letter from PGB Engineering, LLC to the Board regarding 73 Abington Street – Septic System Design*
- *Crocker Design Group, Warehouse Facility Septic System Design Plan*
- *Letter from Morse Engineering Co., to the Board regarding 170 Chief Justice Cushing Highway, Variances*
- *Letter from Chessia Consulting Services, LLC to Ms. Sarni regarding 170 Chief Justice Cushing Highway Supplementary Review*
- *Summary of Issues from John Chessia for 170 Chief Justice Cushing Highway*
- *Animal Laws and Regulations in Massachusetts, updated 2022*