

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2012

Present: Ken Lefebvre, Rich Maccagnano, Karen McManamon, and Ann McCobb.
Ken called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Marti Boyles of 121 Bullard Street spoke about the proposed solar power plant on Bullard Street. She is concerned about the health aspects of the project. Sandra O'Neil, 110 Bullard Street, is also concerned and wants to meet with the Board of Health to discuss her concerns. Tom Gilbert, 105 Bullard Street, wants the Board to respond to the Planning Board before their 2-16-12 meeting. Jayne Ze'evi, 15 Bullard Street, mother of 3 children, is concerned about the EMF effects on birth defects.

Ken thanked the group for coming to the meeting and presenting their concerns. The Board is dedicated to protecting the public welfare and will review their concerns with the project promptly.

Food Code Variance – 1572 Washington Street

Charlie Migos requested a variance for of a 2 bay sink, instead of the 3 bay sink as required by food code, for his new cafe Dolce Tempo. Charlie said that the dishwasher replaced the need for a 3 bay sink, and the 2 bay sink allowed more storage.

Rich said since this is a new construction, there is no hardship reason for the variance, and installing a 3 bay sink meets the food code. Having a 3 bay sink is important if the dishwasher breaks or is non-functional.

Rich motioned to deny the variance request for a 2 bay sink. Ken seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Septic Variance Hearing – 1011 Washington Street

Joe Nihill requested a variance of 3 feet instead of 4 feet above ground water for the upgrade septic plan for 1011 Washington Street. He supplied the abutters list and certified mail cards. He explained the rational for the plan and the modifications made to optimize the system. Ann agreed the proposed upgrade plan made sense.

Rich motioned to grant the 3 feet variance above ground water. Karen seconded, and it passed unanimously.

441 Washington Street: Dunkin Donuts – Septic System

Bert Corey, the engineer, handed out the Status Update of the SDS at Dunkin Donuts (attached). Mike Healy, the attorney, stated that they were testing weekly but not getting the desired results. So they have added a second Bactivator, and Dr. Ehrlich said it will take 1 to 2 months to see the results.

Rich Westcott inquired why the July influent data was lower. Bert explained that the system was a blended tank at that time and the “influent” was actually a mix.

Water usage was discussed. The periodic spikes in the water usage were due to the spraying down of the pods, according to Bert. Rich Maccagnano said that this system is operating at maximum capacity, and even in the best of conditions, is destined to fail. Bert agreed and said they were looking at ways to reduce water usage. Bert said they were trying all possible options to try to help.

The high BOD was discussed. Bert said at first they thought it was the coffee, but it seems to be the dairy, sugar and syrup. Mike said creameries have high BOD problems. Len said a dishwasher could help reduce the BOD.

Rich Maccagnano stated that the Board has allowed plenty of time for Dunkin Donuts to resolve this issue, but setting a deadline is appropriate. Rich Westcott felt that Bert and Mike had acted in good faith, even though the problem is not resolved.

Rich Maccagnano suggested a 2 month deadline. Bert said it would be 2 months before they would see Bactivator results. Maccagnano suggested a June deadline, and having the issue resolved by the fall. It was agreed that the June deadline would be good since it would be during the construction season.

Ann wants to continue to see monthly status reports. Mike said if they see a change they will come in again.

Covanta Hydrogeologic Study

Bruce Jacobs, from HydroAnalysis, presented the summary of the Covanta Hydrogeologic Study. For the newer Board members, Bruce provided a brief walk-through from the beginning. The big concerns for storm water were coliform and chlorides. Manganese was thought to be an issue, but there is more manganese in ground water than in storm water, so it was not a Covanta problem.

Bruce built a ground water model to describe the flow in the aquifer. The method of how to use this ground water model was explained in a memo, and was accepted by the Board in December, 2011.

Covanta uses 8 tons of calcium chloride yearly and wondered what would happen if they changed to sodium chloride. The sodium requirements are lower than those for chloride. In all cases Bruce took the most conservative and worst case scenarios.

For coliforms, the worst case would be extreme events. The highest recent storm event of Tropical Storm Irene with 4.5” of water infiltrating into the ground was used. Even with this worst case, calculations showed none of the coliforms were getting into the water supply.

Rich Maccagnano stated that Covanta's storm water treatment would handle the first 3" of water. But Bruce said they took the most conservative tact of not using that, and still there was negligible effect on the ground water.

Bruce stated that coliform has rapid decay in the soil, which makes sense when you consider the number of houses with septic leach beds and wells, with no coliform problems. When he ran the calculations taking into account the decay, the well would have to be pumping for 250,000 years in the worst 4.5" conditions for coliform to become a problem.

Chloride contamination from everyday washing salts was explored with the vegetated pond as the source area. Again Bruce took the most conservative, worst case scenario. There is a possibility for water to flow, but it is of minimal impact at the well. Westcott said that chloride is everywhere; it's spread on the roads. Everyone should be careful with chloride.

Bruce restated the original question: "Does storm water flow from Covanta affect Well #6, and what direction does the water flow?" Bruce said there is some storm water flow north to the well, but mostly water flows northeast and east to the river; storm water from Covanta does not affect Well #6.

Bruce thanked everyone for their patience and that it has been an educational process. Rich Westcott kept looking critically at the hydrogeologic work, but nothing has been missed. Westcott said there is no significant impact of Covanta on Well #6; that the burden of proof has been met.

By Tuesday, Bruce will provide a hardcopy of the report and all the 5 reference documents outlined in the November 2008 letter to the Board and an electronic copy for circulating. The Board will circulate the report for review, provide a one month period for comment, and revisit this issue at the March 1st meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Karen and seconded by Rich to approve the 1/5/12 minutes. All in favor.

Approval of Bills

The following bills were approved and signed:

Century Health Care	\$60.00
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Health Director's Report

Food Pantry Food Permit Fee: Ann presented the request from the Food Pantry to waive the fee for the SOUPer Bowl Food Permit since it is a non-profit organization and no services will be provided by us. Rich wanted to clarify the policy regarding waiving fees to non-profit organizations. Last year the Board gave Ann the power to waive food permit fees for non-profit events when no services were provided by the Health Department.

Last year, Len Izzo, the food inspector, made a phone call to the SOUPer Bowl Certified Food Manager and went over the requirements. Len doesn't charge us for phone calls. This year he will do the same, and it is the same Certified Food Manager. The Board agreed to waive the fee by consensus.

Town Meeting Article: Ann presented the Town Meeting Article for the BOH Inoculation Revolving Account, which is identical to last year's, stating that it must be presented yearly. The account has a \$20,000 limit.

Ann said we will get flu clinic reimbursements somewhere between 6 to 9 thousand dollars, depending on what the insurance and Medicare agencies accept. Rich asked if the monies can be used for clerk hours related to the clinics. Ann said yes, that has been done as appropriate. Ann said the Board must vote on the Article.

Rich motioned to accept the Article as written. Ken seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Organization Plan: Ann gave the Board copies of the 2007 study by the consultants regarding the department's organizational plan. Much of the plan has been implemented. As things change, it is appropriate to look at the plan and our goals, and see if we need to make adjustments to the plan. Over the next few meetings they will make it an agenda item to review our organizational plan.

Board Member Comment

Rich said he had listened to the Bullard Street Solar Power Plant presentations at the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board meetings, but he doesn't have any information regarding the potential health threat. Ken stated that there is no way to prove that something is "absolutely safe." Karen said she has been researching these issues.

The Board wants to answer the question; "Is this proposed project a public health threat?" Ann McCobb has researched the solar power plant issues extensively with the State agencies. Ann will continue to share this information with the Board and they will draft up their position on this issue. They will put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Rich Maccagnano motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karen seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 2-16-12