

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2014

Present: Eric Dickinson and Rich Maccagnano. Karen McManamon and Ann McCobb absent.
Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None

194 Lowland: Michael Brumber and John Mullen, President of Landscape Depot, presented an informal discussion of the composting business Michael is proposing for 194 Lowland. Michael showed the Board a plan of the area and outlined what he had done up to that point and asked the Board what they recommended.

Michael has met with Ann McCobb and Peter Tartakoff, and discussed what he would do with the material. Michael talked with Chief Cassidy regarding the fire and safety of the composting material. Michael has been working with the DEP and EPA to ensure all regulations are met. He has worked with John for over 7 years at the Landscape Depot in Framingham doing this composting. And he has been working with Agrisource regarding this project.

A professionally maintained composting business is being proposed consisting of rows of compost 30' wide by 12' high that will be Roto-tilled on a schedule regulated by the interior temperature of the mound. The area will be surrounded by berms that are 4' wide by 4' high to limit discharge off the property. A 1 foot layer of process gravel (3/4" crushed stone) will be put down to provide a dense surface over the now sandy base. There will be no building added to the site.

Michael and the Board discussed the site's wetlands & pond, the required set-backs, and will stay out of those areas completely. The 21E section is being tested for contamination and is not part of the composting mound area. The 21E area is being treated with charcoal filters. The 3rd test sampling will happen in March.

This composting yard will accept only landscaping waste, leaf waste and grass clippings (in biodegradable bags), and wood chips. He will not accept food waste, sewer waste, feces, or road sweepings. The material can come from landscapers, the town, or homeowners. There will be a gatekeeper, and a loader operator who will patrol the dumping to ensure less than 5% contamination.

The composting material can be sprayed with microrysa to speed up the breakdown of the material. The piles will not have an odor problem if they are properly maintained. They are tilled when the interior temperature reaches 160 degrees F. The mix is 70% leaf and chips with only 30% grass. John said that the odor comes from piles of grass clippings left unturned.

The compost will take 4 to 9 months to decompose into useable product depending on the weather, temperature and rainfall. When the material is decomposed adequately, it will be added to dirt as organics and sold as loam. The organics turn the tan dirt into a dark brown/black that homeowners prefer. By selling this loam, Michael's composting yard will turn a profit.

The Board recommended Michael have a plan for odor, noise and traffic complaints as they arise from abutters. Michael said all traffic will flow exclusively through the industrial park as it does for

his other business across the street. He will provide the specs for the equipment, which is all EPA Tier 4 to minimize noise. His hours of operation will be 7 AM till 6 PM for running the machines. If homeowners start dumping material at his gate during off hours, he can institute surveillance. Michael is dedicated to running a responsible business.

There is an existing septic system on the site, and the Board recommended Michael look into getting it inspected. He stated that he had no idea where it was but guessed it to be on the right side of the existing structure (looking at the structure from the street). Michael stated that he would look into it and get back to the Board.

There is some acreage that Michael would not use on the parcel and he proposes to turn it over to the Town as open space.

Michael needs to send the DEP form in 35 days in advance and asked if he could send it in now. The Board recommended he speak with Ann McCobb first, then Conservation Commission and the Planning Board.

Rich said that a well-managed compost yard would be a benefit to our town if it prevented having little piles of bad managed waste around town. Michael has shown a good track record with his other business, and the Board looks forward to continuing the same with this proposed compost yard.

Administrative Business: Bills and minutes were looked at and determined that they could wait until the next meeting on February 6 for input from the Ann and Karen.

Pre-opening bread deliveries were still seen at Casey's and Mangia.

Fairview food re-inspection will happen on Wednesday, January 29. Rich will try to attend.

Budget: The line item for half of the copier cost has been transferred to another department who will manage it now. The Board discussed the budget deficient related to the septic inspections when Ann is unavailable now that Graf, the previous back-up septic inspector, is gone.

Rich motioned that Ann begin to work on a plan to replace the back-up septic inspector by June 2014. Eric seconded and passed unanimously. The draft of the plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Board Member Comment

None

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

Respectfully submitted:
Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 2-20-14