

**TOWNSEND BOARD OF HEALTH**

272 Main Street

Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

***Christopher Nocella, Chairman James Le’Cuyer, Vice-Chairman Gavin Byars, Clerk***

Office (978) 597-1713 Fax (978) 597-8135

**THURSDAY, May 12th, 2022, at 12:00 NOON, EST**

**Board of Health members and staff will meet in the**

**Meeting Room 2 Memorial Hall 272 Main Street**

This meeting of the Board of Health will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that, while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person versus virtual attendance accordingly. **Dial-in number:** 605-313-4278 **Access code:**5843884 PIN **Online meeting ID:** cwalter17

# PRELIMINARIES

* 1. Roll Call
  2. Additions or Deletions not anticipated 48 hours in advance

APPOINTMENT/HEARINGS

* 1. CO-VID Update
  2. 116 Wallace Hill Rd. – Septic Upgrade w/ LUA
  3. 22 Main Street – Change of use update
  4. 5 Turnpike Road – Housing update
  5. 75 Barker Hill Road – Proposed addition
  6. Joan Hamlett Leominster Tobacco Alliance Director – Updating the tobacco regulations
  7. Septic Regulations Update
  8. Septic permits or other approvals

WORK SESSION

* 1. Invoices
  2. Minutes of March 2022
  3. Recycling Center Update including Stan Dillis
  4. Recycling Committee Appointment Sally Koivu
  5. Future Agenda Items
     1. Stable Regulations Update – Tabled TBD
     2. Next Meeting: **THURSDAY, MAY 26TH AT 12:00 NOON**

ADJOURNMENT

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes May 12th, 2022**

1. Roll Call: James Le’Cuyer, Gavin Byars and Chris Nocella
2. Additions/Deletions: JL wants to talk to Rick about PFAS water.
3. **Joan Hamlett Leominster Tobacco Alliance**: General request for tobacco permit and you have a retiring cap which is a density strategy to reduce tobacco use in Townsend. Started with 13 permits and as they go out of business or turns it in, it reduces the number to 12, 11, etc. Business sales are only valid for 30 days to keep the permit. James Le’Cuyer asked about private clubs. Joan stated it makes no difference. **CN motions with GB 2nd to keep the regulations the same. Voting 3/0 motion carried.**
4. **COVID Update**: 25 current cases 6.3% county 5.15 and state at 5.11% positive rates. In 3 weeks, the vac rates went from 68 to 69% full vac and booster remains same at 40%. Rick stated the Boston wastewater data shows rates are going down. Suburbs are a bit behind the city but continuing to monitor because activity is still being shown. The CDC redid their data to a community level taking in current cases, hospital capacity and Middlesex County is at at a high level.
5. **116 Wallace Hill Road Septic Upgrade with LUA:** 4 (four) bedroom existing house replace tank with 1500 two compartment tank. Sieve analysis request two wet and reduction in minimum 4 ft of natural imperious material. Title 5 authorizes local Board of Health to reduce to 2ft. James wanted to know if any other holes were dug. Rick states many holes just wet everywhere. Soil from 4ft to 3ft and sieve analysis **MOTION is made by JL and 2nd by GB. Voting 3/0 MOTION carries.**
6. **75 Barker Hill Road Proposed Addition:** System is approved for 4 bedrooms and 9 total rooms not including bathrooms. Their addition exceeds the 9 rooms they are allowed. Title 5 states if you exceed that but still only have four bedrooms the local Board of Health can put a bedroom restriction on their deed and allow the addition**. A MOTION was made by GB and 2nd by JL to approve the upgrades with the deed restriction for 4 bedrooms. Voting 3/0 MOTION carries.**
7. **22 Main Street Change of Use Update:** April 25th met with Sally at the Reading Room and the Board produced a plan to replace the septic and place certain milestones along the way. First one was 5/9 and Rick has not seen anything from her. The Building Inspector put together a Cease-and-Desist letter that went out for Zoning violations and Board of Health violations. Rick left a message for her. They discussed what will happen if Sally doesn’t comply with this regulations. Rick will contact Town Council to discuss. They discussed whether the Cease and Desist is to just when she get into compliance or until she meets her schedule that was set. Gavin states the schedule is canceled and we are starting over. MOTION made by GB and 2nd by JL to issue Cease and Desist and work with Town Council before it goes out. Voting 3/0 MOTION carries. Gavin asks if the Nashoba Board of Health has any doctors that are licensed in the state.
8. **5 Turnpike Road Housing Update:** BOS will be having a meeting in executive session to continue.
9. **Septic Regulations Update:** JL reminds the Board the regulations that were place before he left, he would like revisit. The two-compartment tank is not ideal he would like to go with 2000gallons and a 1500 storage area and 500 settling area. He wants to help the residents keep their septic living as long as possible. He encourages them to increase the size of the tanks. Gavin asked for top 3 failure costs in tanks and will this protect them better. Jim states the cost is minimal.
10. **Recycling Center Update with Stan Dillis:** Stan Dillis appeared before the Board with preliminary plans for a concrete pad at the Recycling Center. There is a small area with water and has a drain line and it’s too small to consider it a wetland, but he encourages the Board to file a Request for Applicability with the Conservation Commission. The endangered species act also requires filling. 30x50 slab, trench on back and pave around the pad with regrind or asphalt. JL requested the pad be moved 10ft to accommodate the large trucks that will be taking the containers in and out. They agreed some concrete footings need to be included in the plan. They also discussed how much pavement would be needed.
11. **No other septic for approvals**
12. **Minutes of March were approved as written.**
13. **JL asked Rick Metcalf how the PFAS in the water works**. He explained it’s a forever chemical. The septic’s can’t filter this chemical out. He asked if Nashoba could do some research to determine if the septic’s are causing the issues in Townsend as the Water Superintendent had explained at the recent town meeting. Jim is concerned with polluting groundwater. CN reminded JL that they have only been testing for this for the last 3 years. He would like to include other towns Nashoba supports and not just Townsend. They talked about possibly having testing for residents but its very costly. Rick asked for some time to speak to his director. The test is $600-700. They agreed that fee is not feasible for the residents who have well water. Rick concluded Nashoba and the Townsend office have been overwhelmed with false information that was given out at the town meeting from the Water Department Superintendent. Rick will report back to the Board at their next meeting.
14. **Invoices were approved as submitted**.
15. **Recycling Committee Appointment Sally Koivu. A MOTION was made by JL and 2nd by GB to recommend to the Selectmen they appoint Sally Koivu for a term of three years. Voting 3/0 All in favor.**
16. **Future Agenda Items:** Noontime meetings need to be changed. July evenings in beginning of the week maybe Tuesday would be more effective for all members to be present. They changed their June time from noon to 5pm.
17. **A MOTION was made by GB and 2nd by JL to adjourn the meeting.** **Voting 3/0 MOTION carries. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.**