



**TOWN OF BOURNE
BOARD OF HEALTH
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Cynthia A. Coffin,
Health Agent

**MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2012**

Members in attendance: Stanley Andrews, Chairman; Don Uitti, Galon Barlow and Carol Tinkham

Support Staff in attendance: Cynthia Coffin, Health Agent; Lisa Collett, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

- 1. 30 NYE LANE – Leonard Martone – Request to reduce maintenance inspections on alternative septic system.** – Mrs. Martone was present for this item. Mrs. Martone stated that she is not using the property for ½ the year because she goes to Florida. Mrs. Martone stated that there are only 2 people in the house when it is occupied. Mrs. Martone stated that she also owns a home in western Massachusetts, so this property is used very little. Ms. Coffin stated that the requirements for inspections are twice per year for effluent and influent for 2 years, and quarterly maintenance inspections for the life of the system, unless the board reduces anything. Ms. Coffin stated that she did not have a chance to research on the Carmody system but has two rounds of testing already recorded in the file. Mrs. Martone stated that she has done all the required testing. Mrs. Martone asked how often is the testing required after the 2 years is up. Ms. Coffin stated that if the system is meeting its discharge parameters, then no further testing is required. Ms. Coffin stated once the Board of Health receives 4 tests that meet the discharge parameters then you are ok. Ms. Coffin stated that she just wants to verify this in the Carmody system. Mr. Andrews asked that Ms. Coffin refresh the board and the public on why they require the quarterly inspections of the system. Ms. Coffin stated that basically she wants to make sure that the system is not being shut off because unfortunately the way they are designed homeowners can easily do this. The Board needs to be sure that the system is functioning properly; that air is getting to the system. Ms. Coffin stated that the quarterly testing is also a State of Massachusetts requirement for nitrogen removal systems. Ms. Coffin stated that the State of Massachusetts does allow a reduction for systems that are not approved for nitrogen reductions, but most, if not all, of the systems this Board has approved have been for nitrogen reduction. Ms. Coffin stated that according to the report, when the house is being occupied, they are meeting the 19 milligrams per liter. Mr.

Andrews stated that looking at the electric bill, the July test would have been 2 months at full occupancy. Mr. Andrew stated that the electric bill submitted by Mrs. Martone indicates they occupy the house 7 months out of the year. Mrs. Martone stated, not really, but she does keep things running. Mr. Andrews stated that the board has had discussions like this in the past and at one point the board did grant a reduction in the inspections because the homeowners were able to show that they only occupied the house for a very short period of time in the summer time. Ms. Coffin stated that she recalled the electric bill being around \$20.00 per month and the water usage bill at \$5.00 at a property on Circuit Avenue. Mr. Andrews stated that was done in 2008. Ms. Coffin stated that the board still required that the homeowners turn the system on a month prior to occupancy, that the effluent sample be taken 2 to 3 weeks after occupancy and then once again before they closed up the system. Ms. Coffin stated that to a degree, she agrees, that the companies are doing a disservice by scheduling inspections where there is no occupancy. Ms. Coffin stated that customers are paying for a contract but they are doing testing in the winter months when the customers are not there. Ms. Coffin stated that is the way they schedule their inspections that is the problem. Ms. Coffin stated that at a minimum there should be at least 2 inspections during occupancy period in a case like this one, but the maintenance should be kept at 2 per year when the system is on. Ms. Coffin stated that it takes about a month for the system to start up once they start to occupy the property. Mr. Andrews stated that his concern with reducing the amount of inspections is these inspections are to insure that the system is actually up running and operational. Mr. Andrews stated that these systems were used so that the applicant could build closer to a particular resource and these inspections are the board's way of knowing that the system is operational. Ms. Tinkham asked what would happen if an applicant stated they are not using the property year round but then decide to use it again after the board grants the reduction in testing. Ms. Coffin stated that unfortunately the last granted applicant did slip through the cracks even though the board has requested that they come back before the board in a year to review the matter. The board can request that the applicant come back before the board on a yearly basis showing that the house is still only used seasonally along with the submittal of electric and water bills. Ms. Maryellen Martone stated that the usage shows fluctuations because her parents go back and forth from this house to their house in western Massachusetts. Mrs. Martone stated that she returns here usually in May. Mr. Andrews stated that there is high use in June. Mr. Andrews stated that for the usage over the year it does show use up over 100 kW a month. Mrs. Martone stated that there is a spot light on the flag and they do run a dehumidifier. Ms. Coffin stated that there are two sides to this issue because the applicant needed the original variance to wetlands, which is why this alternative system was. At the time the approval included the requirement for inspections 4 times per year and that is why the board agreed to grant the variances, but she understands this is a burden to the homeowner. Mrs. Martone stated that it costs \$365.00 every time they come. Ms. Coffin stated that Mrs. Martone can also shop around to find a less expensive company to do her maintenance and testing. Ms. Coffin stated that she can see reducing this from 4 times to 3 times per year, but it is up to the board. Mr. Andrew stated that the bills submitted show the usage today but the board is not sure how the property will be used in the future. Mr. Andrews stated that the board needs to develop additional data collection by the Board of Health office. Ms. Coffin stated that she can put a date on the

Outlook calendar for one year from now to review the maintenance reductions. Mr. Andrews stated that if Ms. Coffin wanted to look later into putting dates on these reduction requests then it should be put on an agenda for discussion, but he is not in favor of reducing maintenance inspections at this time. Mr. Barlow stated that he does not have a problem with reducing this one as long as the home owner provides the board next year at this time with the same history of electrical summary. He feels that the board does not really have to develop a policy. Mr. Barlow stated that that board can amend things and change things; that is why they have hearings. Mr. Barlow stated that he agrees with Ms. Coffin. Mr. Barlow stated that the maintenance is a burden and the board requires the quarterly inspections because they want to make sure that the system is functioning when people are occupying the house. Mr. Barlow stated that Mrs. Martone has shown that they do not occupy the house for 5 months. Mr. Barlow stated that for those first 3 months of the year, he is ok with not testing it and not being concerned about it. Mr. Barlow stated that if the situation changes and the house is occupied during the winter, then they would go back to the 4 times per year. **Mr. Barlow made a motion to amend the maintenance policy to remove one maintenance inspection during the first 3 months of the year, so the system only requires 3 maintenance inspections per year. No maintenance will be done in January, February, and March. Mr. Andrews stated that the board needs to be sure the system is operating properly. Mr. Barlow asked what months the testing should include. Ms. Coffin stated the board wants the system on a month before occupancy so there could be one inspection at this time, then another one mid-occupancy, then the last one at the end of the occupancy. Ms. Andrews stated that the records show usage from June to December. Ms. Martone stated that her children do turn things on during those months even if they are not there. Mr. Barlow amended his motion to state that the first inspection will be done in May, another inspection in August, and a final one in November. Mr. Uitti seconded the motion. Three in favor and one opposed.** Ms. Tinkham stated that the Board should make it a policy that the approval is only good for one year. Ms. Coffin stated that it would be good to include something in the motion that at this time next year, Ms. Martone will provide electric and water usage records and if they are consistent, the approval for the reduction will continue, but if not, then the item will have to be brought before the Board of Health again. Ms. Martone was worried about the dehumidifier but Mr. Andrews said that this should not contribute that much to the usage.

2. **539 Circuit Avenue – Bruce and Nancy Leslie- Request to reduce maintenance inspection on alternative septic system.** Mr. Leslie spoke to the Board about his request. Mr. Leslie provided the Board with water bills and a chart of the electric usage. The water bill is labeled with July to December usage. The electric bill charts are for June through the first of December. Mr. Leslie stated that the house is a summer house and they are usually there June, July, August, and September. The water bills are in the last half of the year and the increases can be seen. He provided the Board with records for the last few years. Mr. Andrews stated that he saw the electric bills for 2010, 2011, and 2012. The house was renovated around 2007 and they did not really get back in to the house until 2009. There was some work on the house in the winter so there may be some bills that reflect that electricity usage. Mr. Andrews stated that there was a chart in the

back where Mr. Leslie has his Jan 17, 2012 electric bill. Mr. Leslie stated that he has a Septi Tech alternative system which is a relatively passive system but it needs electricity to run the blower and pump. Mr. Leslie stated that the system really only works when there is occupancy. He would like to see a reduction on the maintenance schedule since it doesn't make any sense to have the system inspected when it is not running. There is another separate issue with the effluent testing and he is trying to work on the problem with Don Bracken. This is only a request to reduce the maintenance inspections. Mr. Andrews stated that the usage indicates that there is occupancy for three months per year. Mr. Leslie stated that the system will not be turned off. Ms. Coffin stated that based on the usage records she would think that an inspection in July and then again in September before they leave the property would be appropriate. The Leslies only occupy the house for three months out of the year. There was some more discussion regarding the additional testing that is being required as the discharge parameters for nitrogen are not being met. The influent testing is not being done to offer a comparison to the effluent readings. The testing will have to be continued until it can be shown that the system is either meeting the 19 mg/l for total nitrogen, or that it is at least achieving a 50% reduction. She will work with the wastewater operator, Rosano Davis, on this issue, which is separate. **Mr. Barlow made a motion to reduce the amount of maintenance testing to twice per year and that the dates will be decided by the Health Agent. Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Barlow to amend the motion to include wording that the issue will be brought back to the Board in 12 months as was discussed for the previous approval unless proper records come in to the Board of Health office confirming similar use. The vote was three in favor and one opposed. Ms. Coffin stated that she will get in touch with Don Bracken to try and work on the issue of the influent and effluent testing for total nitrogen.**

3. **Approve the minutes of September 12, 2012- Ms. Tinkham made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2012. Mr. Uitti seconded the motion. Mr. Barlow stated that he would have to abstain as he was not present. The vote was three to approve with one abstention.**
4. **Approve the minutes of September 26, 2012 – Mr. Uitti made a motion to approve and Ms. Tinkham seconded that motion. It was unanimous to approve.**

Mr. Barlow made a motion to adjourn. Mr Uitti seconded the motion. It was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully taped and typed by,

Lisa M. Collett
Secretary

Reviewed and approved by

Cynthia A. Coffin
Health Agent

Kathleen Peterson_____

Stanley Andrews_____

Galon Barlow_____

Don Uitti_____

Carol Tinkham_____

cc Board of Selectmen/Town Clerk