Board of Sewer Commissioners
Minutes of March 19, 2013
Bourne Veterans' Memorial Community Building
Bourne, MA 02532

TA Guerino

Don Pickard, Chairman
John Ford, Vice Chairman
Peter Meier, Clerk
Earl Baldwin
Linda Zuern

Board of Health Director, Cindy Coffin and Skip Barlow of the Board of Health; Coreen Moore, Town Planner; Brendan Mullaney, Conservation Agent and members of the Conservation Commission.

Members of the Press: Diana Barth, Bourne Enterprise, Paul Gately, Bourne Courier

Call Meeting to Order
Pickard MOVED and SECONDED by Zuern to recess and open as Board of Sewer Commissioners and to reconvene as Board of Selectmen in regular session at 6:45 pm.

Minutes of 10/23/12, 11/27/12 and 2/26/13
Zuern MOVED and SECONDED by Ford to approve meeting minutes of 10/23/12 as submitted. VOTE 4-0-1. Meier abstained.

Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Zuern to approve meeting minutes of 11/27/12 as amended. VOTE 4-0-1. Meier abstained.

Zuern MOVED and SECONDED by Meier to approve meeting minutes of 2/26/13 as submitted. VOTE 4-0-1. Ford abstained.

Discussion with Health and Conservation regarding Nitrogen Loading and possible mitigation
Mr. Barlow – Discussion tonight is about nitrogen loading and its effects. All shellfish eat the nutrients so it is necessary to control the amount of nutrients. Health implications are also to be considered.

Chm. Pickard – stated that Wareham is now upgraded to reduce nutrients it is discharging from its wastewater treatment plant.

Ms. Coffin – the town itself doesn't have a nitrogen loading bylaw. The town of Falmouth does have a bylaw, but it is a Planning Board regulation. It is a complex and not a general one-size-fits-all regulation. The Board of Health (BOH) has septic systems upgraded with the expansion of bedrooms or living space, and the town has close to 70-90 nitrogen removal systems the Board of Health try to monitor. The Board of Health is not at the point of requiring, but generally are willing to look at.

Ford – asked if there are some old sewers that haven't upgraded to a Title V. Ms. Coffin – those are being fixed when homes are being sold and fail; most have been converted to Title V. She has a map of internal systems that she can supply. The BOH can put regulations on anyone within the coastline to have alternative septic systems, but this is a huge expense for the general public without being assured getting the removal that is needed.

Ford – asked about lawn care. Mr. Mullaney - some towns have adopted fertilizer regulations. However, the issue is that it is almost impossible to enforce and difficult to put into a bylaw. If there is a town bylaw, nothing stops the buyer to go to the next town to purchase fertilizer. Nitrogen loading started becoming an issue in the 1970s. There are a combination of factors, but anywhere between 50%-90% is from wastewater; fertilizer and stormwater runoff contribute less than wastewater.

Meier – inquired about alternative systems and monitor agreements and if there is any way to force a permit so they cannot shut off the system if it is seasonal. Ms. Coffin – when a person makes an agreement, the BOH is able to go in and see who has dropped their contract - which is enforcement. As far as a dedicated, separate switch and if they are a seasonal building, the BOH is not going to do anything. The initial start up cost is $10,000 - $12,000 in addition to a regular system.

Mr. Mullaney – with regard to alternative systems, there is no one person checking affluent levels every day. Seasonality is an issue. With the sewer plant, licensed operators regulate.

Ms. Moore – the education element is important. The more people are aware of what they are doing the better understanding.

Mr. Barlow – as far as lawn companies, reports have been made of what they were putting down. However, it appears the homeowner is the big culprit. Ms. Coffin – the law companies use a slow release fertilizer.

Mr. Ligor (Conservation Commission) – suggested contacting the Buzzards Bay Coalition who may want to give a workshop or speak before the board as to how we can mitigate this issue. They also probably be willing to train people.

Ms. Martha Craig-Rheinhardt (Conservation Commission) – Education and public outreach is critical. The town may want to consider Eco toilets in addition. There are a few upcoming events and Ms. Rheinhardt will supply documents by email to TA Guerino for distribution.

Mr. Holmes (Conservation Commission) – educational and outreach programs are key. In his experience, it is the high school level that is the most effective; get students active.

Mr. Barlow – an inexpensive solution would be to plant oysters which filter a lot of gallons per day; an acre of oysters can filter about a million gallons a day.

Baldwin – he would like to see the base looked at closely.

Pickard –recommended TA Guerino to coordinate a meeting at the May BOSC meeting with Mr. Mullen and the professional staff on what to recommend and how to incorporate the educational aspects.

System wide cast discussion including Hideaway for future planning

Ford – looking for a way to come up with a fair system for Hideaway to obtain new replacement pumps part through an enterprise fund; currently they are paying a fee that buys grinder pumps. He spoke with TA Guerino and came up with a policy for monies to go into a stabilization fund rather than decrease the fee to set money aside. Bourne needs a stabilization fund to give money for capital outlay. Pumping stations will need some overhaul per George Tribou at some point.

TA Guerino – take the shared costs, deduct the cost of Wareham, get the difference to calculate the number. He would like to start after town meeting to put on the BOSC agenda for discussion.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin that we adjourn the Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting and to go back into Selectmen's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Groezinger, sec.