



**Town of Southborough  
Board of Health  
9 Cordaville Road, Lower Level  
Southborough, MA 01772-1662**

Phone: (508) 481-3013

**Minutes of the Southborough Board of Health**

**Meeting Minutes**

September 27, 2022 – Board of Health – Virtual – 7:30 AM

**Present:**

Board Members Chelsea Malinowski, Nancy Sacco, Dr. Safdar Medina; Public Health Director, Dr. Heather Alker; Public Health Nurse, Taylor West; Sanitary Inspector, Dennis Costello; Business Administrator, Barbara Spiri

**Also in Attendance:** Civil Engineer, Peter Bemis; Owner of 16 Meadow Lane, Bill Poutre

**Opening:**

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 7:37 AM by Ms. Malinowski.

**Topic: Public Comment**

**Discussion:** Public comments were not brought before the Board.

**Topic: Variance Request for 16 Meadow Lane**

**Discussion:** Prior to the meeting, Ms. Malinowski, Ms. Sacco and Mr. Costello visited the site of 16 Meadow Lane with Mr. Bemis to see the drainpipe which leads to the reservoir. The leaching field of the proposed septic system would be within the required 100 feet distance from the drain. Ms. Malinowski did a search of documents on this situation. In 1975, a warrant article to fund the drainage of the Meadow Lane area. Between 1975 to 1979, a permit was issued by the MDC (now MWRA). Proposed easement plans were designed but Ms. Malinowski said she could not find any document that granted an easement of the drain to the Town.

Dr. Medina asked if the variance would effect the drainage. Mr. Costello stated there are risks but they can be mitigated by installing an impervious barrier (which is widely used with septic systems to avoid breakouts). He stated the pipe must be completely sealed from the beginning of the drain to the end. Ms. Malinowski spoke with Town Counsel to do a title search. The variance would be contingent on that search. Mr. Costello stated the Board is only responsible for the separation from septic system to drain as a variance. The letter that was sent to the abutters did not clearly state that fact. Mr. Costello did speak to the State and was told the burden is on the Town and not on the State to make the decision. He did add the Board could talk to MWRA.

Mr. Bemis shared a document with the Board that showed the drain line of the property and the proposed 30-foot easement plan. This would be brought before the Select Board and



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would be another contingency required for the variant. Mr. Bemis had a video of the interior of the unlined corrugated drainpipe to show its condition. The video showed the pipe is in very good condition. Mr. Costello agreed the drain is in good condition.

Mr. Bemis said he has used a curtain wall (barrier) on numerous occasions, and they work extremely well, and the risk level is very low.

Ms. Malinowski does not want it to be precedent setting to grant variants on new construction. However, she does not see the barrier as an environmental issue. This also bothers Dr. Medina as well. Ms. Sacco would like to see MWRA to take a closer look at drains that are close to reservoir.

**Action:** **Ms. Malinowski move to approve a variance for 16 Meadow Lane based on three conditions:**

1. **Nothing is found in the title search by Town Council**
2. **The owner of the property will pursue an easement with the town**
3. **Nothing ties in with the drainpipe**

**Ms. Sacco seconded the motion. Vote to approve the variance: Ms. Malinowski – yes, Ms. Sacco – yes, and Dr. Medina – yes. All in favor.**

**Topic:** **Public Comment**

**Discussion:** Public comments were not brought before the Board.

Ms. Malinowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sacco seconded the motion. Vote to end the meeting: Ms. Malinowski – yes, Ms. Sacco – yes, and Dr. Medina – yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 a.m.

Respectively submitted by Barbara Spiri, Business Administrator and edited by Chelsea Malinowski.

Documents:

Drainage Plan of 16 Meadow Lane

Letter to Abutters