

CHILMARK BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

September 7, 2022

5pm, via zoom

Present: Katie Carroll, Matt Poole, Jan Buhrman, George Sourati, Jim Malkin, Wendy Weldon, Leanne Cowley

Draft Minutes, August 17, 2022

Squibnocket Pond District Advisory Committee PDAC Wendy Weldon, Chair of the SPDAC, and Leanne Cowley, Co-Chair, came to the Board to discuss public education around prohibited uses of pesticides and herbicides in the Squibnocket District under Section 12 of the Chilmark Zoning Bylaw. They reported that they have placed signs produced by the Board of Health on state-owned roads at entry-points to the District, and have sent a letter to residents of the District explaining the prohibited uses as defined by the Board in a letter of 2017. Wendy Weldon noted that there appears to be a lot of confusion about “organic” products which nonetheless are also encompassed by the prohibitions of the bylaw. A resident on Shotneighbor’s Lane felt uncomfortable about having a sign posted, and the Committee is looking for solutions – others welcomed the signs.

The Board, while welcoming the initiative of the Committee to increase awareness and compliance with this important bylaw, noted that in fact, the Town does not have the right to post on state-owned roads, and the signs could be removed by Mass DOT at any time. Therefore, the Board suggested that it would be far preferable to approach private property owners who support the bylaw for their permission to post the sign on their property. Matt Poole agreed to retrieve the signs until a permanent landing place can be found for them.

The Board also felt that a formal letter from the Board to the Homeowners would be an appropriate way to follow up; such a letter could include suggestions for alternative ways to deal with pests and invasive plants, in particular, how to protect residents and visitors from ticks, which are thick on the ground in Squibnocket. The Board asked Marina Lent to work on a preliminary draft of such a letter for Board review and approval at a future meeting.

Levin, 22 Loon Lane (20-26) The Board postponed consideration of a proposed tie-in proposed 2 bedroom guest house to existing 5 bedroom system serving existing 3-bedroom house prepared by Doug Dowling because the required plan showing two systems in full compliance for a proposed guest house is not on file.

Seward, 69 Cobbs Hill Road (25-3) The Board **approved** a septic system construction permit presented by George Sourati for a tie-in, contingent on receipt of a plan showing that two systems in full compliance are possible on the property.

8 Greenhouse Lane (33-30) The Board **approved** a proposed septic system upgrade presented by George Sourati, with the requirement that soils be evaluated by the engineer prior to placement of components. The leach field will replace an existing system which has become non-compliant due to landscaping which raised the grade. The existing system has capacity for a proposed 700sf recording studio, which is counted as one bedroom, and meets separation requirements.

11 High Meadow Road, (7-21.4) The Board denied permission for an out of season perc test requested by George Sourati at this property, as the project does not represent emergency septic repair or replacement.

7 Bassett Place (24-185) The Board postponed consideration of the proposed septic system repair because a perc test hole in the location of the proposed leach field is required. If the existing cesspool is failed, the perc test can be conducted at this time; if not, the project will have to wait until perc season in December.

Carroll, 135 Middle Road (12-62) The Board postponed consideration of the proposed septic upgrade pending discussion with the system designer.

Rescinding the Chilmark Mask Advisory The Board approved rescinding the Chilmark Mask Advisory, noting that people may still choose to wear a mask at any time, and that those with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 must wear a mask.

Updates/FYI

Menemsha Comfort Station Committee: Marina Lent reported on the Selectboard discussion of this item at its meeting on September 6. She noted that the Committee will be convened with Chris Murphy as pro tem Chair, for the election of a Committee Chair. She also noted that the mandate of the Committee was to deal with septic and groundwater quality only, and would not encompass the re-design of the Bath House.

Hiring Process for Administrator/Inspector BOH: Marina Lent spoke to transition planning whereby she will continue to work limited hours two days per week at Town Hall for the foreseeable future following a week-long staycation starting on Monday September 12th, 2022. Asked for a specific date at which this arrangement would cease, she suggested November 15, 2022. The Board asked for a written confirmation of the date and terms of continued work after September 12th.