

Chilmark Board of Health

Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Chilmark Town Hall

5:00 pm

Present: Katie Carroll, Matt Poole, Jan Buhrman

Also Present, Chris Alley, John Keene, Mario Spindola (OhDEER), Kurt D. Upham (OhDEER), Michael Tomkins

Keene, 27 Harbor Hill Road (27.1-108) John and Hillary Keene presented renovation plans that would add a bedroom to their dwelling. The Board noted that the existing system already requires variances to Chilmark BOH Regulations and thus cannot be approved for an increase in flow. They reviewed options to address this. The plan currently shows the shed as a bedroom, so if the shed can be rendered to be unqualified as a bedroom, the proposed renovation will be within the capacity of the existing septic system. A revised plan will be provided.

Cummings, 76 Menemsha Inn Road (21-33) Chris Alley presented a septic plan revision to add an ejector pump and make the tank H20. The Board accepted the revision.

Kiernen, Boston Hill Road (30-76.1) Chris Alley presented a septic plan revision which now shows a proposed footprint for a proposed dwelling, and moves the tank and d-box. The Board expressed its dismay that this plan, which requires a property line variance, had been proposed and approved with the understanding that the property line was between two abutting family members. The proposed revision does not increase variances already granted or create the need for further variances and was **approved** by the Board.

Oh DEER! The Board held a discussion with MV OhDEER representative Mario Spindola and OhDEER owner/founder Kurt Upham to address abutter complaints received during the summer. In addition to complaints from abutters in the course of the summer season, the Board has received detailed letters of support from the DiMaura property in Menemsha, which uses the services of OhDEER, about the merits of this form of pest control over the more-toxic alternatives. These letters are on file for review in the Board of Health office.

Mario Spindola stated that the intent of the company is to provide an alternative to toxic pesticides. He described the product used for tick and mosquito control as a mixture of organic compounds and essential oils including rosemary and peppermint which is IC-3 organic-compliant. The product kills only on contact with the target. After it dries, it retains mild repellent properties, but does not continue to kill. Unlike conventional chemical pesticides, it can safely be used to treat ponds, in zoos, near restaurants, and in children's play areas. It is laid thick on the ground to penetrate to the soil, and sprayed into brush for mosquito control. Unlike conventional pesticides, which are widely used and barely noticed, this product will not create environmental or health hazards.

The Board noted that the smell is significantly overpowering, and asked how it might be possible to achieve less aerosolization to minimize the spread of the odor. The Board asked whether the product is OMRI-certified, and advised that being careful to avoid application when the wind is likely to spread the odor to abutters would help. Concerted and consistent abutter notification is also necessary. The Board pointed out that providing detailed information about the product and its properties is very important to assure abutters and passers-by that the odor does not indicate a chemical hazard to their health or to the environment. Board and OhDEER representatives felt that staff in the field should be encouraged to provide people with a flyer about the product and contact information to company representatives who would be able to answer any further questions.

The Board will take under consideration developing regulations or guidelines for this and other potential nuisance complaints. For the time being, the Board felt it would be helpful for the DiMaura property to have a yard-survey for ticks undertaken to determine the acuity of the tick problem. The measures discussed and agreed upon, including abutter notification of times of application, attention to wind strength and wind direction, and public education about the nature of the product are likely to significantly reduce complaints.

Homeport: Marina Lent provided interim facility review inspection results, along with recommendations regarding the most urgent violations found. The Board welcomed the opportunity for a thorough facility review for the establishment, and asked Marina Lent to produce a report for transmission to facility owner Swordfish Enterprises, listing all findings of violations and deficiencies. These must be addressed before a permit to operate can be issued for the 2020 season.

Sep 18 2019

Invoices:

- MVRD SEMASS \$3,473.32
- MVRD \$339.85

The meeting adjourned at 19:24 hours.



Katherine L. Carroll, Chair
Chilmark Board of Health



Matthew Poole
Chilmark Board of Health

Janet L. Buhrman
Chilmark Board of Health

A recording of this meeting is on file at the Board of Health office and available for on-site review.

Sept 18, 2019