

RECEIVED & FILED

DATE April 11, 1988
Barbara Brown
~~Barbara Brown~~ CLERK, ACTON

ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 1987

Board members present: Daniel Costello, Chairman, Charlotte Sagoff, George Emmons, Associate member Campbell Amos. Staff present: Doug Halley, Director; Carol Holley, clerk.

The meeting opened at 7:35 p.m.

After some discussion, Mrs. Sagoff moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. Mr. Emmons seconded. All in favor.

Mrs. Sagoff announced that she wished to resign from the Board of Health, and suggested that Associate member Cam Amos take her place. Mrs. Sagoff stated as her reason that she was to be away for three months of the winter and felt it a strain on the function of the Board to have a member absent for such a long period of time.

During a review of correspondence, the relationship between development and the use of package sewage treatment plants was discussed, as this is the subject of legislation pending in the Mass. legislature at this time.

Mrs. Sagoff remarked on the new sewage treatment plant in Concord, stating that it was odor free and very nice. She recommended that anyone concerned about locating such a facility in Acton visit this plant.

A letter on problems encountered while installing one-gallon flush water closets at Redstone Condominiums was read. Mr. Costello asked for a status report on Redstone. Mr. Halley related that the Water District will be visiting the site with L. Charles Allard, a unit owner, to determine the source of the fresh water previously discovered.

Correspondence from Greater Lawrence Sanitary District was noted. Mr. Halley stated that Upper Blackstone is still taking Acton sludge. Mr. Costello asked about a regional facility for septic treatment. Mr. Halley noted that Boxborough was interested in combining with Acton on a regional septic treatment plant. Mr. Emmons advised that Acton does not now have a champion for a regional septic treatment facility, and the Town does not seem to be interested, at the moment, in a regional solution. Mr. Halley stated that Town Counsel had rendered an interpretation of Title 5 Intercommunity Disposal regulations. Attorney Callaghan stated that any towns that pumping trucks pass through en route to a treatment plant must also give permission for Acton to transport septic within their borders. Mr. Emmons asked for a letter to be drafted to all these towns requesting the required permission, Mr. Costello felt it unnecessary and perhaps an invitation for trouble, and the matter was dropped for the time being.

Owners of property on Quarry Road had submitted a preliminary request to the Board of Health to change a portion of their land out of an Aquifer Protection Area, stating as reason therefor that this classification limited use of, and somewhat devalued, the property. Mr. Halley stated that Zoning did not view this area as in the Aquifer Protection Area, but the Lycott Report criteria showed it to be part of the aquifer, and the soil testing performed indicated it was part of the aquifer. Mr. Halley suggested that this area's classification not be changed as field data confirmed the classification. Mr. Emmons asked for more data before these property owners appeared before the Board for a formal hearing. Mr. Halley stated that, in his opinion, the burden of proof lay with the petitioners and not the Board regarding reclassification.

Mr. Emmons noted that 35 people had attended his mini-course on septic systems. Course material was briefly reviewed. Mr. Emmons asked the Board for any comments, suggestions, additions, etc. they wished to submit. Mrs. Sagoff stated that this mini-course had been very well received and many people wished a repeat.

A draft of animal regulations was reviewed. These regulations had been initiated by Lou Beauregard, a previous Board of Health member. Mr. Emmons stated that he would like to see sanitary requirements strengthened regarding animal lots in an aquifer protection area. Manure and organics that could go into the aquifer were stated as matters of concern. Monitor wells should be required for an aquifer area. Pesticides were also of concern for Mr. Emmons. This matter was not pursued further, as Mr. Emmons wished to make some revisions regarding aquifer protection. Air monitoring equipment for piggeries was discussed.

A memorandum from Mr. Halley regarding changing fee schedules for septic related permits was reviewed. Mr. Costello stated he had no problems with the revised fees. Per query of Mrs. Sagoff, Mr. Halley noted the Board of Health staff does not charge for revisions, and stated that after the second revision it would not be a bad idea to charge for review of further revisions. Mrs. Sagoff moved to accept the fee schedule as recommended by Mr. Halley, Mr. Emmons seconded and all voted in favor.

A memorandum from Sanitarian Jose Albors was reviewed. This was an itemized estimate of costs in setting up a bacteriological lab for total coliform and fecal coliform count in water samples. Mr. Costello suggested that Mr. Halley look into the possibility of using sewage treatment plant grant funding to set up this lab, as this type of testing will be regularly required once the plant is constructed and in operation. Mr. Amos asked if Mr. Albors was certified to perform this task. Mr. Hale noted he had been certified in New Hampshire, where he had run a lab, and that Massachusetts Certification requirements had yet to be researched. Mr. Halley did not foresee any difficulties in getting Mr. Albors appropriate certification. Mrs. Sagoff stated that she thought the lab was a wonderful idea.

Mrs. Sagoff moved to go into executive session to discuss matters of potential litigation. Mr. Emmons seconded. All voted in favor.

8:50 p.m. The meeting was moved out of executive session and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley
Carol Holley, Secretary

Signed and approved,

Daniel J. Costello
Daniel J. Costello, Chairman

0748Z