

Manchester Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Members present:

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Dr. Tonya Colpitts, Dr. Martin Hahn

Members absent:

None

102 Bridge Street

Board of Health member Paula Filias recused herself from this plan review.

Dan Ottenheimer of Mill River Consulting presented the remaining Board members with a revised septic system design plan, which he noted had been increased to six bedrooms at the request of the Board of Health to ensure that the system now matched the existing house. Mr. Ottenheimer also noted that the revised system design provided a further distance to the wetlands on site. Dr. Hahn asked Mr. Ottenheimer had contacted the Town Assessor to update the property card for the site. Mr. Ottenheimer replied that that had been completed.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to approve the revised septic system design plan, dated 06/24/21 and revised on 07/12/21 as presented by Mill River Consulting for the property at 102 Bridge Street in Manchester. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, and with Ms. Filias having abstained, the four participating members voted in favor of the motion to approve the plan.

Ms. Cottler, yes

Dr. Hahn, yes

Mr. Colarusso, yes

Dr. Colpitts, yes

Mr. Ottenheimer left the meeting at this time.

8 Sandpiper Lane

Present for this discussion were property owner David Bell and his septic system design engineer Chuck Johnson. Mr. Johnson presented septic system upgrade plans with bottomless sand filter and a review of the requested local upgrade approval variances to Title 5. Mr. Johnson said that the new system will have a 5' x 13' bottomless sand filter, like the system at 0 Sandpiper Lane. Mr. Johnson reviewed the list of requested variances, including setback variances to allow 6' vs. 10' from system to property line and 7' vs. 20' from system to the foundation. Ms. Filias reviewed the challenges for septic system installation in the Sandpiper Lane, Butler Ave. and Raymond Street areas. She and Mr. Johnson both noted that the sand filter will provide additional wastewater treatment compared to a conventional septic system. Dr. Hahn reviewed Board of Health Consultant Engineer Gerry McDonald's plan review and recommendation for plan approval. Mr. Colarusso noted that he appreciated the difficulty with this septic system design.

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the revised septic system design plan, dated 06/15/21 and revised on 07/09/21 as presented by C.G. Johnson Associates for the property at 8 Sandpiper Lane in Manchester. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the members voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the plan.

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, yes
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

Mr. Bell and Mr. Johnson left the meeting at this time.

77 Forest Street

Present for this presentation was septic system designer Jesse Blanchett

Mr. Blanchett presented the Board members with revised septic system plans for a new construction home at 77 Forest Street in Manchester. Mr. McDonald noted that there was an existing approved septic system plan on file for the property and that the revisions were made to satisfy the sale of the property. Further, that the revised plan was compliant with Title 5 and requested no variances, so he was recommending the Board approve the revised plan as presented.

Mr. Blanchett said that the design is for a 6-bedroom home with garbage disposal, resulting in the need for a 9-bedroom septic system design. He noted that the site was reconfigured to meet the plans of the new land buyer.

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the revised septic system design plan, dated 06/14/21 as presented by Griffin Engineering for the property at 77 Forest Street in Manchester. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the members voted in favor of the motion to approve the plan.

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, yes
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Blanchett left the meeting at this time.

15 Eaglehead Road

Mr. McDonald presented the C.A.P.E. revised septic system plans for 15 Eaglehead Road in Manchester.

Mr. McDonald noted that there is an existing approved septic system plan on file for the property but given its age the plan needed updating to address changes in the Presby system DEP approval and also to address changes requested by the current owner of the property. Mr. McDonald noted that as his requested updates had been made and the new DEP standards met, he was recommending the Board approve the revised plans as presented.

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the revised septic system design plan, dated 03/15/21 and revised on 04/27/21 as submitted by Cape Ann Professional Engineers for the property at 15 Eaglehead Road in Manchester. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the members voted in favor of the motion to approve the plan.

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, yes
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

Regional DPH Grant

Ms. Filias reminded Board members that the Board had charged employee Ellen Lufkin with completing some research related to questions the Board had regarding a Mass Department of Public Health grant for nursing and social work services (that included Manchester as a participating municipality) that the Town of Hamilton had applied for and received. The Board wanted answers to the following questions:

- How did the lead Town of Hamilton include Manchester in the grant application without the Manchester Board of Health knowing and without the Manchester Board of Health voting to participate?
- Can the Manchester Board of Health say no to accepting the grant, and if so, what is the time frame?

- Has the Manchester Essex School District School Committee voted on the application filing and separately the award and agreed to host the social worker portion of the grant?

Ms. Lufkin reported that she had communicated with Town Administrator Greg Federspiel who suggested she contact Hamilton for further information. Ms. Lufkin provided the following summary of updates to member questions.

- Information on Hamilton and Wenham Board meetings for grant reviews and votes. Hamilton & Wenham Boards of Health discussed the proposed grant on March 11, March 25, March 30, and April 7 joint Board of Health meetings. Both Boards voted to approve the submittal of the four-town grant at their joint March 25th meeting. Essex Board of Health reported that they were aware of the grant application in March but did not discuss or vote on the grant application.
- Advised that Hamilton will need to report which Towns are no longer participating in the grant. and that DPH will adjust the grant funding in keeping with any decrease in participating towns.
- The M/E School Superintendent and two school committee persons replied that they were unaware of this Boards of Health DPH grant application or award and had not made any plans related to same

Mr. Federspiel informed the Board that he had gotten a last minutes out call from the Hamilton Town Administrator Joe Domelowicz, shortly before the DPH application deadline asking to include Manchester. Mr. Federspiel said that he gave permission to add Manchester's name and that Manchester could work on it later. He acknowledged that it was not the best process.

Mr. Colarusso said it was irrelevant how we got to here. His concerns were financial and operational.

Further, he reminded members that during the pandemic the Board discussed nursing, wanted more permanent funding for nursing and were told no. He felt that the \$50,000 Manchester share of the grant, weather used or not, feels like the Town is backing its way out of a Town nurse. Mr. Federspiel replied that he sees the grant as providing additional available resources and the Town can decide what that looks like.

Dr. Hahn said that the Board does need nursing assistance given Covid, increased testing and booster shots. He said he thinks a regional effort for joint vaccinations and testing is not a bad idea and gives capability and readiness.

Ms. Cottler said that the mental health services needs are great, and a social worker is an asset to the Town. She said she would like to participate in the social worker decisions, depending on the set up and appropriate qualified applicants.

Mr. Colarusso asked who will administer and oversee the grant employees. Dr. Hahn replied that a regional nurse would operate on their own and assumes the same for the social worker. Ms. Filias advised that a four-town subcommittee would need to be formed to do this work.

Mr. Federspiel said that he discussed the grant in meetings with Hamilton Town Administrator Joe Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Nurse Rachel Lee and Essex Health Agent Erin Kirchner and said that they agreed the grant is to supplement, not replace staff.

Mr. Colarusso said he sees chaos resulting between the four towns.

Mr. Federspiel confirmed that a grant subcommittee would be formed.

Dr. Hahn suggested that the Board write a letter requesting a joint meeting with the other three towns in the grant. He wanted to discuss how the towns would solve grant employee access issues.

Mr. Colarusso suggested discussions should include how to manage the grant and how to avoid having the hierarchy get in the Boards way. He wanted to have a group discussion about all these issues.

Ms. Cottler proposed that each of the four towns have two representatives on the grant committee.

Ms. Filias thought that the meeting would be a good opportunity to evaluate the management portion of the grant. Mr. Colarusso said that he wants to explore all available options but first wants to be comfortable with the operations and management set up of the grant before anything else.

Dr. Hahn said that it is the four Boards of Health that need to meet, not the Town administration.

Ms. Filias asked what happens to the portion of the grant assigned to May and June of 2021.

Ms. Filias said she would work with Ms. Lufkin to draft a letter to the other Boards of Health to get communication started.

Beach Water Testing

Ms. Lufkin provided an update on the recent weekly beach water testing in Manchester.

Ms. Lufkin provided an update on two recent housing inspections and investigations on Forster Road and Pleasant Street.

Public Health Nurse Update

Nurse Pam Crehan informed the Board that the Town has had 243 Covid cases to date, with 0 active cases at this time.

She said that the Town has a vaccination rate of 76.4%.

She said that in response to a 61% vaccination rate in the 17–29-year old's, she was planning for a pop-up vaccination clinic at local coffee shop(s).

Minutes

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the minutes of 06/10/21 as presented. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion and the minutes:

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, yes
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the minutes of 06/03/21 as presented. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion and the minutes:

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, yes
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

Dr. Hahn wanted to inform the members that the Anchor Pharmacy at Cabot Plaza in Beverly is providing Covid-19 vaccinations. He also informed the members that while the Delta variant of Covid-19 is a mild disease, it could potentially still spread if persons are symptomatic.

At 10:03 a.m. Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion.

Members, by roll call vote approved the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Ms. Cottler, yes
Dr. Hahn, yes
Mr. Colarusso, absent
Dr. Colpitts, yes
Ms. Filias, yes

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant

