



Town of Becket
Board of Health
557 Main Street
Becket, Massachusetts 01223
(413) 623-8934 ext. 22 fax 623-6036

Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2018

Board Members Present: Gale LaBelle, I. David Krawet and Laurel Burgwardt

Board Members Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Jessica Perotti

Health Agent: Jayne Smith

Public Present: Sarah Francis, Richard Pryor, Carlos Lucas, John Kozinski, Jeanette Thomas, Gail Kusek, Michael McCaul and Barry Searle

Call to order

Gale LaBelle, Chairman, calls the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and reads the rules of the meeting. Ms. LaBelle introduces the members of the Board present and Administrative Assistant.

Board to review meeting minutes for February, March and April

The minutes for March and April are not ready yet. Ms. LaBelle asks if everyone has had a chance to review the minutes for February 5, 2018. I. David Krawet makes a **motion** to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018. Ms. LaBelle **seconds the motion**. Hearing no discussion, Ms. LaBelle calls for a vote; all in favor with Laurel Burgwardt abstaining from the vote. **Motion passes.**

Reports from the Health Agent

Jayne Smith, Health Agent, starts with the review of **3417 Main Street**. Ms. Smith asks Berry Searle, the engineer on the project, to present his plans for this septic design. Berry Searle introduces himself and says he is representing Michael McCaul of 3417 Main Street. Mr. Searle starts off by letting the Board know that this site is difficult since it is only one third (1/3) of an acre. Mr. Searle explains the soils here are very fast which is good and bad. It's good because the leach field can be smaller but bad because of separation distance. Putting in a conventional system was not really an option because of the space restriction. Mr. Searle designed the system with an Advan Tex AX-RT which is called secondary treatment. It allows for a lot of variances such as required at this site. Ms. LaBelle asks Mr. Searle to explain what a secondary treatment does. Mr. Searle replies that instead of the effluent going directly to the leach field, it first goes to a treatment pod. The effluent circulates repeatedly until it is finally discharged into the leach field. By the time the effluent reaches the leach field, it is essentially purified water at this point. Mr. Searle explains further that as part of the condition for this technology, the state requires two (2) inspections per year over the first few years; he needs to verify for how many years. Mr. Searle talks about the setback requirements for the wells. The homeowner's well and the neighbor's well to the right is more than one hundred feet (100') away. The neighbor's well to the left will be eighty-eight feet (88') away. There was standing water in the back corner of the property and he was hoping to avoid that area. Ms. Smith



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agrees that it is a very wet lot with not a lot of space. This type of septic system is like a mini sewage treatment plant. This system will require a setback reduction from 100' to 88'. This type of system will allow a 2' reduction to seasonal high groundwater. However, under Local Upgrade Approval, you are only allowed a 1' reduction which is why letters were sent to all of the abutters notifying them of the setback distance. Ms. Smith asks Mr. Searle to explain why the amount of the surface area was reduced by fifty percent (50%) in his calculations. Mr. Searle says that is allowed with this type of technology. Ms. Smith says a lot is being asked for but there are not a lot of options here. Ms. LaBelle asks Ms. Smith if this is the best feasible system to install here. Ms. Smith answers that she doesn't object to this plan but it is the Board's decision. She says this system does provide a good degree of protection and it is a dire situation there. Mr. Krawet asks if she has any reservations about approving this plan. Ms. Smith feels that the 50% reduction of surface area and the 2' separation to seasonal high groundwater is overstepping what is allowed because they are also asking for a setback reduction from the neighbor's well; you're not supposed to ask for a further reduction to seasonal high groundwater when you also request a reduction to a setback to a well. This is why they went ahead and sent out the notices of the variance because Mr. Searle could not be reached. Ms. Smith didn't want this installation to be further delayed. Ms. Smith says it is reasonable to approve pointing out all that is being asked to do. Ms. Smith proposes to the Board that the current septic tank be plugged to become a tight tank, temporarily, until the new system is installed. This will help to relieve the neighbor's from dealing with any septic failure. Ms. LaBelle asks Michael McCaul, homeowner of 3417 Main Street, if this is acceptable; Mr. McCaul agrees. Ms. LaBelle also asks Mr. McCaul how soon this installation could take place; Mr. McCaul asks if one (1) month would be acceptable. Ms. Smith says this is a reasonable timeline. Ms. LaBelle summarizes they need to have a variance for the reduced setback to the neighbor's well from 100' to 88'. Mr. Krawet makes a **motion** for the setback to the neighbor's well be reduced from 100' to 88'. Ms. Burgawardt **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. Ms. LaBelle asks for a motion for the 2' reduction to seasonal high groundwater. Mr. Krawet makes a motion to approve the 2' separation to seasonal high groundwater. Ms. Burgawardt **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. Ms. Smith asks the Board when the tank should be converted to a tight tank. Ms. Smith asks the neighbors if the smell is still noticeable. Jeanette Thomas says she's not outside all the time but she does notice it. Mr. McCaul agrees that the septic odor is still there and agrees to get it plugged up right away.

298 Long Bow Lane East: Ms. Smith says that the engineer on this project was planning on attending the meeting but thought it would be held on another day and was unable to attend after all. Ms. Smith did a thorough review of the bottomless sand filter design. This is new technology that Ms. Smith has not dealt with yet. Ms. Smith describes the system as being built



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two feet (2') off the ground and also has a pretreatment of effluent. It is built with railroad ties around it. Ms. Smith describes how the system works: the effluent is released by pressure and then trickles down into the sand that is placed between the system and the ground. The footprint of this type of system is much smaller. Ms. Smith says the type of sand is a very special sand; it's not Title V sand. Ms. Smith informs the Board that they will need to have sieve analysis' done to ensure the correct type of sand is used for the installation. There is a shared well with the neighbor to this property that needs a reduction to the required setback. The Board recognizes Carlos Lucas who shares this well. He'd like to know where the system will be placed because they are next to a lake. Ms. Smith shows Mr. Lucas where the system will be placed on the plan. Mr. Lucas wants to be assured that the well won't be effected being less than one hundred feet (100') away from the septic system. Ms. Smith says the well can be tested now and again after the system is installed. Ms. LaBelle lets Mr. Lucas know there are water test kits available in the office. Ms. Smith explains that this type of system is like a miniature waste water treatment plant. It basically purifies the effluent and is much better than a conventional system. Mr. Lucas wants to know how often this type of system will need to be checked. Ms. Smith says it will more than likely be every six (6) months. Ms. Smith says the contractors who maintain these systems will be in contact with the Board of Health if the contract isn't fulfilled by the homeowner; the Board of Health then contacts the homeowner to let them know they need to maintain this type of system. Ms. LaBelle wraps up the discussion saying a variance is required since the septic system will be seventy-four feet (74') away from the well. Mr. Krawet makes a **motion** to approve the variance of 74'; Ms. Burgwardt **seconds the motion**. Ms. LaBelle calls the motion to a vote; all in favor. **Motion passes**. Mr. Krawet makes a motion to approve the Orenco septic system for this property. Ms. Burgwardt **seconds the motion**. Ms. LaBelle calls for a vote; all in favor. **Motion passes**.

464 Long Bow Lane West

Ms. LaBelle asks Ms. Smith if this has been reviewed. Ms. Smith replies this is fine; it is a regular d-box replacement. Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** to approve the d-box replacement at 464 Long Bow Lane West. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**.

Old Business: Route 20 Spring

Ms. LaBelle recognizes Gail Kusek to give any updates on research regarding keeping the water spring functional on Route 20 at the Becket/Chester town line. Mr. Kusek says she has looked into how much it would cost to have a micro-hydraulic fixture to help with the costs of maintaining the filter. Unfortunately, there is not enough water pressure to produce enough energy for this. While they were at the spring, the person she consulted with suggested a solar pole to generate some energy. She says about four (4) trees would need to come down to put up a solar pole. The panels on the pole are installed with screws that will not be able to be



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unscrewed so nobody will be able to steal the solar panels off the pole. Ms. Kusek said she is also looking into generator costs. The rate of flow was also reassessed from ten (10) gallons per minute to five (5) gallons per minute.

Ms. Kusek says a non-profit will be set up to operate the spring. Ms. Kusek explains that a non-profit could take over the operation of the spring and this would take away the liability from the town. Ms. Burgwardt asks who would be paying for all of this. Ms. Kusek answers that the town would pay for the building of the structure and then the non-profit could take over from there paying for items such as lightbulbs. Ms. Kusek is recommending that the structure have a slot for trash, one for recycling and another for donations. There will also be a bulletin board that could post the regulations for the spring. Mr. Krawet asks who will run the non-profit organization. Ms. Kusek answers that she and Michele Kenney would be on it and also a friend of Michele's. Ms. Burgwardt questions what will happen if the non-profit doesn't raise enough money or runs out of money to keep the spring running.

New Business: Training Seminars

Ms. Perotti informs the Board about a free training seminar regarding the new camp regulations that will be held on May 7, 2018 at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission from 1:00-3:00 PM. The second training seminar regards Title V inspections and will be held on May 15, 2018 in Hadley. The cost is \$60.00 for YOWA members, \$75.00 if not a member. Ms. Burgwardt says she would like to attend both trainings. The Board discusses whether or not they are members. It is unknown if the Board belongs to YOWA. Mr. Krawet also agrees to attend the Title V training. Ms. LaBelle makes a **motion** for to allow Ms. Burgwardt and Mr. Krawet to attend the Title V training on May 15, 2018; Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

Correspondence

- a. Ms. Perotti presents an invoice from BRPC for the inspectional services for a total of \$5500.00 for the quarter. Mr. Krawet makes a **motion** to pay \$5500.00 to BRPC. Ms. Burgwardt **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes.**
- b. **242 Wells Road:** Another complaint was received regarding the condition of this property. There is trash in the yard and a tree fell over the roof. The Board asks Ms. Perotti to send a letter to Ms. Smith asking for this property to be inspected. It may need to go into a receivership.



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- c. **Bed and Breakfast:** An inquiry came in regarding having a short-term rental, like a bed and breakfast but wouldn't be serving breakfast. The inquiry was forwarded to Ms. Smith.

Budget

The Board has paid out 55.24% of the budget so far this year.

Any other business to come before the Board

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment

Mr. Krawet makes a motion to adjourn. Ms. Burgwardt seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. Meeting is adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved on October 3, 2018 by:

Gale LaBelle, Chair

Laurel Burgwardt, Vice Chair

I. David Krawet