



Town of Oak Bluffs  
Board of Health  
P.O. Box 1327  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
508-693-3554 Ext. 127

William White  
Chairman

James Butterick  
Thomas Zinno  
Board Members

Garrett Albiston  
Health Agent

Alexa Arieta  
Assistant Health Agent

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023 – 10:00 AM

In accordance with Governor Baker's emergency modification of the Open Meeting Law  
this meeting was held virtually.

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Garrett Albiston, Alexa Arieta, Lorna Welch, George Sourati, Bill Regan

At 10:05 AM, Mr. White opened the meeting.

### APPOINTMENTS

- **George Sourati on behalf of Donald Fitz-Roy Trustee of the Irrevocable Fitz-Roy Family Trust – 31 Stevens Ave., Map 16 Parcel 214**
  - 1) Variance Request:
    - To allow the construction of a one-bedroom sewage disposal system on 19,044± square feet of land area.

Mr. Albiston addresses the board. He states that the property is large enough for a 2 bedroom IA system. Mr. Albiston states that the floor plans would be considered a three-bedroom home. The loft affords privacy and has a full bathroom. And that the basement should not be allowed to be finished. Mr. Albiston shares the floor plans.

Mr. Sourati states that the owner is present. They offer to remove the second story bathroom and not finish the basement. The loft will be deed restricted.

Mr. Albiston asks for the board's opinion. Mr. Zinno states that as long as the wall at the top of the stairs is open with railings, for the sake of consistency, he is ok with it. Mr. Regan states that he would like a 36" sheet rock wall. Mr. Albiston states that he feels a half wall is ok, since the space will be deed restricted.

Mr. White defers to Mr. Albiston as the health agent.

Mr. Sourati states they want to keep it a 1 bedroom because they will be transferring some of the land to another property in Zone II in the future.

Mr. Zinno makes a motion to approve the application for a one bedroom system, with the removal of the second story bathroom, a half wall at the loft, and the basement to remain unfinished. Mr. Butterick seconds. Approved 3-0.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 21, 2022-MrButterick makes a motion to approve. Mr. Zinno seconds. Approved 3-0.

## **AGENT UPDATES**

- Covid update-high transmission again. We will put a link on the website for this.
- Language in the failed systems does not include cesspools. Can we modify the by-law and vote on this next meeting?
- Homelessness issue has come to a head in Oak Bluffs. Mr. Albiston is working with Mike Hugo for grant funding for resources for addiction support and homelessness to funnel to Harbor Homes.
- Mr. Zinno asks about MVCS and their shelter. Mr. Butterick explains it is an overnight warming shelter and only temporary. Harbor Homes recently received grant funding and are looking for a year-round permanent location. MVCS is at capacity for mental health services, with a wait list of 3-4 months. The hospital is also at capacity and only takes referrals from hospital physicians. Overnight shelter this year began early. Many people with mental health issues that arrive get sent away because they are disruptive and cannot stay overnight.
- Mr. Butterick states that the property that was just approved has been brought to his attention. They are clear cutting land and preparing for some type of development.
- The red zone for Covid-the uptick is very minor based on the CDC regulations. Not dramatic like we have seen in previous years.

Mr. Butterick makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 AM. Mr. Zinno seconds.  
Meeting unanimously adjourned 3-0.