



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

Meegan Lancaster  
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
February 8, 2022 – MINUTES**

**Members Present:** James Butterick, Thomas Zinno (acting chair)

**Others Present:** Meegan Lancaster, Kim Leaird

Mr. Zinno called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Mr Zinno notifies the public present that any discussion of the turf field in relation to the MVRHS will be tabled to a later date when Mr White is able to be present.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- **George Sourati on behalf of Douglas R. Rich, Trustee of The Rich Family Realty Trust – 375 Barnes Rd., Map 27 Parcel 314**
  - Variance Request:
    - 1) to reduce the required distance from the proposed sanitary disposal facility to five neighboring sanitary disposal facilities from 300' down to 36' ± (nearest)(Assessor Parcel 36-1).
      - Mr Sourati shares his screen and presents the application. New Title 5 system will be replacing a current cesspool. The tank and pump chamber will be pumping uphill to a leaching field, located in such a place to be compliant with the setback distance from the pond and property lines. Because of this, a waiver is being requested because the setback distance requirements to other leaching fields cannot be met.
      - Mr Zinno asks if they should require an I/A system. Mr Sourati explains that this is technically a waiver, not a variance. He also explains that the leaching field is 252' from the pond, when only 200' is required.
      - Mr Zinno asks if there will be room to install an I/A system is regulation is put in place to require this in the future. Mr Sourati states that there would be.
    - Mr Butterick makes a motion to approve. Mr Zinno seconds. Approved 2-0.

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

- Adoption of bedroom definition - Board of Health Regulation as outlined in 310 CMR 22.21(2) of The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations

- This is noticed incorrectly. Ms Lancaster clarifies that this is a regulation as outlined in Title 5, not the Massachusetts drinking water regulations.
- Ms Lancaster states the purpose of this regulation is to turn policy into regulation, in relation to bedroom definition.
- Mr Sourati asks to comment. He suggests that if an owner adds a legal means of egress in the basement, per the building code, that space should be considered a bedroom by BOH regulations.
- Discussion tabled to the next meeting for more clarification.
- Discussion of environmental sources of PFAS – communication with MVC, Wastewater, etc.
  - Mr Zinno drafted a letter to MVC, other boards of health, and wastewater plants, to request testing of the effluent from septic systems. There is very little data to show the PFAS detected here.
  - Can we come up with something to filter PFAS out of the effluent in these new systems?
  - Potential for funding for this testing. Grants are possible.
- Discussion of draft regulation to restrict the installation of artificial turf containing PFAS in the Town of Oak Bluffs
  - This discussion is continued until the next meeting when Mr White is present.
  - Any letters written will not be read into the record today. Mr Zinno encourages those who would like to speak to come to the next meeting and do so in person.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- January 11, 2022-unavailable.

**AGENTS UPDATE:**

- 2021 Tick Report – tabled per Ms Lancaster to a later date.
- COVID Test Kits
  - Library participating in the distribution of the test kits to town residents.
  - Team effort getting these out. System is in place now for this going forward.
- K-N95 masks are being distributed to the towns from island health care.
- Mask Mandate
  - Mr Butterick asks when we will reconsider this.
  - Ms Lancaster says that we would revisit this once the schools have done so, on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Infection numbers are low. Household transmission is still common.
- Assistant Health Agent Position – application status
  - No applicants for this position currently. Closing date is the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Town hall move.
- Maura McGroarty asks to speak.
  - One of the two newspapers mentioned an upisland town being eligible for PFAS testing. Do we know what this was about?
  - Mr Zinno says this was for private testing.
  - Ms McGroarty asks why we aren't pursuing this in Oak Bluffs? Can't we request this same service for our wells?

- Ms Lancaster states this is done by the state and these towns are eligible because a large area of their town doesn't have a public water supply. Because the majority of Oak Bluffs has town water, and this water is already tested per state regulations, Oak Bluffs does not qualify for this program.

Mr Butterick makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 AM. Adjourned 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Alexa Arieta, Assistant Health Agent