



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 – MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 21, 2022 – 10:00 AM**

**In accordance with Governor Bakers emergency modification of the Open Meeting Law  
this meeting was held virtually.**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno.

Others Present: Health Agent Garrett Albiston, Asst Health Agent Alexa Arieta, John Petitt, Paul Boyce, Aiden Pollard, Maura McGroarty, Tom Tate, Cody Coutinho, Susan Desmarais

Mr White opens the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Reid Silva on behalf of Nancy Landry Map 22 Parcel 91**
  - 1) Variance Request:
    - Leaching facility to property line separation; 10' required: 5' proposed.

Cody Coutinho presents for Vineyard Land Surveying and Engineering.. Existing 3 bedroom house with 1000 gallon tank with a failed leaching pit. Proposing to keep existing tank and replace pit with a leaching field. In order to keep proper setbacks to the existing foundations, a variance is requested. Requesting 5' setback to summit ave, and 5' setback to the neighboring property.

Mr Zinno makes a motion to approve the plan as proposed. Mr Butterick seconded. Approved 3-0.

- **Island Water Source 51 Ice Pond Lane Map 43 Parcel 47**
  - 1) Island Water Source application for the installation of a new open loop Geothermal well system, consisting of six wells, at 51 Ice Pond Lane in Oak Bluffs.

Tom Tate is the contractor and presenting on behalf of the engineer, Chris Alley. All wells located outside of the ConCom jurisdiction. The proposal is an open loop geothermal system of wells, with a test and monitoring well. Would be willing to share data of the monitoring with the Town, if the town is interested. John Petitt and Paul Boyce, geo system engineers, are here to help present the project.

What is the difference between an open loop and closed loop system? Open loop pulls water out of the ground, pushes it through the system and dumps it back in the ground. A closed loop is a closed system. The water is not pulled from the ground and dumped back in. A closed system, would require many more wells (possibly 45 wells). An open loop would require only 4. Two supplies and two returns. Open loop is more cost effective and ecologically friendly. Mr Butterick asks to confirm that the open loop system is environmentally friendly in that there are no chemicals. A closed loop system requires chemicals, like antifreeze, which could possibly leak into the groundwater. They estimate each well will be 130'-150' in depth. The point is to use less fossil fuel. Less noise, and more energy efficient. Concerns-effect on ground water and the effect on ponds. Paul says it is a non-consumptive use. Every gallon removed goes back into the ground. No drawdown. Garrett asks how many gallons used per day? Engineers state this is about 45 gallons per minute/15000 gallons in a day. For comparison, 4 million gallons a day are drawn for drinking water in the 3 down island towns. Garrett suggests keeping the test well, that way we can get data from it, and monitoring it. Mr Zinno suggests we run this by the water district first.

Mr Butterick makes a motion to recommend acceptance of this open loop geothermal system, Mr White Seconded. Mr Zinno does not approve of the project at this time. Approved 2-1.

#### **AGENT UPDATES**

DEP changing regulations for nitrogen sensitive areas (around our salt ponds). How will this effect BOH and CWMP we don't know yet.

Susan Desmarais-asks about where we are at on the PFAS moratorium. Mr White says that the regulation is still with the town attorney.

Dr. Butterick makes a motion to adjourn. Mr Zinno-2<sup>nd</sup>. 3-0 Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Alexa Arieta, Assistant Health Agent.