

# **Town of Stoughton**

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**

*Andrew M. Tibbs, Chair ♦ Steven Snyder, Vice Chair ♦ Richard Parolin ♦ Ellen Epro ♦ Michael Varner*

The Stoughton Board of Health held a hybrid Google meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was conducted in person and by remote participation pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people who may gather in one place.

### **Members present:**

Mr. Andrew Tibbs, Chairman  
Mr. Richard Parolin  
Ms. Ellen Epro  
Mr. Michael Varner

**Absent:** Mr. Steven Snyder, Vice Chair

Chairman Tibbs called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and announced this meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format. He mentioned the format is a holdover from the Covid era and the Board is happy to provide this convenience for constituents.

Mr. Tibbs announced the first item on the agenda as Variance / Extension Requests and asked Mr. Perry for an update to Kelley's Mobile Home Septic Install at 1156 Park Street.

### **I. Variance / Extension Requests**

#### **A. Kelley's Mobile Home Septic Install – 1156 Park Street**

Mr. Perry said he's been out to the Park several times since the March meeting for inspections. He said more services have been tied in and they're almost at the end of the collection system, with all ties into the trunk line. The house, however still needs to be tied in.

Mr. Perry mentioned the cesspools and ground water still need to be dealt with. He said it's his understanding the plumber will be at the park this week and the following week to tie in services. Once that's done, they'll be able to fill in and properly abandon the cess pools.

Mr. Perry said it's progressing. He would recommend another 30-day extension unless the Board has any objections. He added, revised plans haven't been submitted yet.

Mr. Tibbs asked if the plans are tied up with attorneys. Mr. Perry said he believes the attorneys are in agreement, but they're working on an AS Built plan to show everything that's gone into the system. He described it as a progress plan and said it will show the new leaching system. Mr. Perry said from what he understands the plans are for an IA Presbee system.

Mr. Matt, the project engineer, attending virtually gave a summary. He said as of yesterday, distribution and services to all trailers are 100% complete. He said much of the park is graded out and any remaining trailers will be graded out Monday or Tuesday of the upcoming week. This will allow all residents access to their trailers.

Mr. Matt explained the house on the property will be hooked up once residents are able to park in their own area and are no longer using the temporary parking near the house. This is expected in 2-3 weeks. After the connection is made to the house, all that remains is the leaching facility. Completion of the leaching facility is estimated to be done by mid-May or June. Mr. Matt added, while distribution and services are now complete, sewer connections are still being worked on by the plumber.

Mr. Matt said the number one issue is the ground water and that will be taken care of as soon as they can. The second issue is having the updated plans showing the updated leaching system provided to the Town. He expects the new plan be ready for submittal in the next few weeks.

Mr. Matt responded to Mr. Perry's question about the remaining cesspools by saying they are continually being pumped so as not to cause leaching and should be off line in the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Tibbs welcomed any questions from the Board. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion.

Mr. Parolin made a motion to grant the extension for another month. Mr. Varner seconded.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes      Mr. Parolin – yes      Mr. Varner – yes      Mr. Tibbs- yes

### **B. Amelia's - 217 Washington Street**

Mr. Perry updated the Board, explaining the plans were submitted and approved. He suggested the extension be continued due to a death in the family of the company that will work on this installation. Mr. Perry suggested a 30-day extension and mentioned another 30 days will be needed for the install.

Mr. Varner made a motion to continue the extension, seconded by Mr. Parolin.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes      Mr. Parolin – yes      Mr. Varner – yes      Mr. Tibbs- yes

### **C. Hampton Inn – Pool Permit Lapsed – Lifeguard Variance**

Mr. Leahy explained the permit for this pool had lapsed. He said after reaching out to them, it was learned the hotel has changed owners. The new owners are requesting a variance to the lifeguard regulations. Mr. Leahy said they under the previous ownership, they did have lifeguards. There are none now.

Mr. Leahy asked if anyone from the hotel was present, hearing no response, Mr. Tibbs invited comments from the Board.

Ms. Epro questioned whether the hotel has cameras at the pool. Depending on where the cameras are located, she wondered how effective they would be in case of an incident?

Mr. Parolin suggested the Board set up further regulations due to so many possible situations with the pools. He gave a scenario of a husband and wife being the only ones present at a pool. Would one be required to remain out of the pool while the other was in the water? He suggested further regulations need to be in place to cover different situations at the pools.

Mr. Parolin asked what the depth of the pool is. Mr. Leahy said it's 4 feet and 5 feet at the deep end.

Mr. Parolin added that no one could be monitoring cameras at all times. They may have to step away at some time.

A discussion ensued regarding how much effort companies are putting into hiring lifeguards.

Mr. Tibbs confirmed the difficulty finding lifeguards is real and said it's been that way for a while now.

Mr. Tibbs asked Mr. Leahy to reach out to the applicant and let him know that the Board would not be able to approve a variance as is. If the applicant is able to provide additional details and attend a meeting, the Board will be willing to discuss the variance request.

Mr. Tibbs agreed with Mr. Parolin's earlier suggestion and said he thinks the Board should work on setting up additional regulations to cover different situations.

Mr. Leahy explained he had invited the manager of the Hampton Inn to this meeting, suggesting someone from the hotel should attend. Mr. Leahy agreed this request should be continued to the next meeting until a representative can be present.

Mr. Parolin made a motion to continue the item for one month. Ms. Epro seconded.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes            Mr. Parolin – yes            Mr. Varner – yes            Mr. Tibbs- yes

**D. Knollsbrook Condominium – Lifeguard variance request**

Karen Carvalho, a representative from Knollsbrook was in attendance. She mentioned this is the third time she is requesting variances. Ms. Carvalho said she is applying for a variance for the indoor pool and the two smaller pools. She stated they are trying to hire lifeguards, but it's been difficult finding anyone.

Ms. Carvalho said the condo owners have a vested interest in following the rules and regulations of the pool. They know if the rules are not followed they won't be able to use the pool. Ms. Carvalho said the residents are all familiar with what to do if there is no life guard available. They often use the "buddy system" and bring someone else along. She added that every pool has instructions on what to do in an emergency.

Mr. Parolin asked for the wording to be changed on a letter the Board recently received from Knollsbrook. He said the wording should read, “At least one person who is at least 21 years old must remain outside the pool at all times when someone is in the pool.”

Mr. Varner said floatation devices should be readily available in case of an emergency.

Mr. Tibbs said lifesaving equipment is available at the pool, but the issue is manpower. He said the Town requires lifeguards be present, so the vote tonight is on the variance application.

Mr. Parolin made a motion to approve the variance with the stipulation that Knollsbrook sends an updated letter to the Board, stating the changes requested and Mr. Perry and Mr. Leahy can approve once they receive the letter. Ms. Epro seconded.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes            Mr. Varner – yes            Mr. Parolin – yes            Mr. Tibbs- yes

### **E. 354-360 Washington Street**

Mr. Leahy said his recent meeting with the property manager went well. They are making plans to install a fence and will be requesting a variance for the 15-foot setback due to limited space on the property. Mr. Leahy requested they provide a sketch of what they plan to do. He said the lot was recently paved and to add a concrete pad would be a hardship.

Mr. Leahy said the pest control has been sufficient. The last couple of reports showed no rodent activity.

Mr. Tibbs said he believes the request for a setback is reasonable. He suggested they request the variances for the pad and set back all at once.

Mr. Parolin made a motion to continue this extension to the next meeting. Ms. Epro seconded.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes            Mr. Parolin – yes            Mr. Varner – yes            Mr. Tibbs- yes

## **II. Hearing Request**

### **A. Housing violation – 40 Adams Street**

Mr. Tibbs said he understands this request for a hearing may have been resolved. Mr. Perry confirmed the request was rescinded, saying he had no further details.

## **III. Sanitarian Updates**

A. 79 Canton Street – Mr. Perry said plans were received on April 12<sup>th</sup> and they are currently being reviewed by engineering. The project is on schedule. As soon as plans are approved, the installation can be done.

B. 1305 Washington Street – Mr. Perry said he received and approved their plans. Now they have to file a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission before they can proceed. They should be able to get on a Conservation Commission agenda in the next couple of weeks.

- C. 1873 Washington Street – They have crossed the street and connected. Final plumbing inspections need to be completed by the plumbing inspector. Mr. Perry added it’s proceeding nicely and should be completed in the next week or so.
- D. 909 Sumner Street – Mr. Perry said this is under design. He reminded the Board they gave the applicant a couple of months for the design and install at the March meeting. Mr. Perry said no updates were expected for tonight, but we should see something by the next meeting.
- E. 945 Washington Street – Mr. Leahy said the \$1,000 fine was paid and he believes the new owner has taken over. Mr. Leahy added the fine was imposed on the previous owner.

**IV. COVID – 19 Update**

Chairman Tibbs told the Board the Federal emergency order is to be lifted May 11th. Massachusetts has agreed to follow suit. Many of the useful conditions will stay in use. Mr. Tibbs added that Covid 19 will be now be treated more in the way of general day to day business.

Mr. Leahy asked if Mr. Tibbs wanted to put the topic of “in person meetings” on for the next agenda. Mr. Tibbs said yes.

**V. Correspondence**

A. March 16, 2023 meeting minutes

Mr. Parolin made a motion to approve with corrections noted. Ms. Epro seconded.

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes            Mr. Parolin – yes            Mr. Varner – yes            Mr. Tibbs- yes

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Parolin. Ms. Epro seconded by Mr. Varner

On the vote:

Ms. Epro – yes            Mr. Parolin – yes            Mr. Varner – yes            Mr. Tibbs- yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

**Documents used during the meeting:**

- 1. Variance application from Hampton Inn – 449 Page St. to waive lifeguard requirement.
- 2. Application from 354-360 Washington St. – Dumpster Variance
- 3. Minutes of March 16, 2023

**Minutes Approved - May 18, 2023**