



## Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2019  
7:30 P.M.  
Acton Town Hall  
472 Main Street  
Room 9

Members Present: William Taylor, Chairman, William McInnis and Michael Kreuze.

Associate Members: None present

Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Other Present: Emily Grandstaff-Rice, David Martin, Peter Light, Hongmei Zong and Steven Ventresca

Absent: Joanne Bissetta, Mark Conoby, Rekha Singh and Thomas Jacoby

### 1. Opening

Chair – Bill Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

### 2. Regular Business

None

#### A. Director-Operational Update

- None.

### 3. New/Special Business

#### A. AB Schools – Variance Request:

Nitsch Engineering, on behalf of the Acton Boxborough Regional School District, has requested a variance from 310 CMR 15.416 to allow for a reduced permitted flow for the proposed septic system at the Gates/Douglas Twin School. This request was subsequent to the meeting on September 9, 2019 where the Board asked Nitsch to show a compliant system, provide documentation as to why this variance should be granted and send abutter notification. In addition, the Board asked that a fully compliant plan be designed at the 8 gpd with potential to permit for the 5 gpd if the DEP is agreeable to this concept. The Health Department was involved in a conference call with the DEP who stated they are in agreement. Mr. Ventresca, representing Nitsch, stated that the public purpose



reasoning behind granting this variance would be the limited parking, size of the leaching field required and the need to keep the school open during construction as the new school will be built over the existing leaching field. Mr. Ventresca also presented the Board data showing similar school facilities and the variances that were granted and approved by DEP in surrounding towns. The Board asked if I/A technology would help with Nitrogen loadings. Mr. Ventresca stated that the chambers are designed to have the effluent discharge at the top which may help remove nitrogen through aeration. The Board stated that consistent with past decisions the Board would recommend that the variance be granted with no more than a 25% reduction of the SAS and asked Mr. Ventresca to design the plan for 6 gpd. The Board also asked Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Architect to submit a letter indicating the need for Board support indicating the public purpose of the reduced flow rates to allow for operation of the school during construction. The Board also asked Mr. Ventresca to submit a letter indicating compliance of 310 CMR 15.416 (2)-Variances for schools.

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to support the Acton-Boxborough Regionals School Districts request for a variance from 310 CMR 15.203(5) with the following conditions:

1. A letter shall be submitted indicating the public purpose from the schools architect and approved by the Health Department.
2. A letter shall be submitted indicating that conditions for granting the school a variance have been met by the Engineer and approved by the Health Department.
3. The variance is granted to allow for 6 gpd permit, however, the SAS system shall be designed for a fully compliant 8 gpd system
4. The Board authorized Dr. William Taylor, Chairman to sign the letter of support.

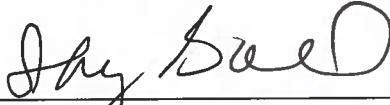
#### 4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

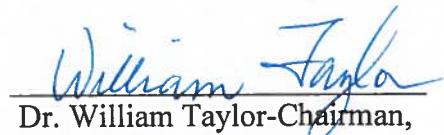
#### Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- AB School- C.T. Douglas and Paul P. Gates Elementary School- Variance Request for Septic System
- School Flows From Similar School System. Douglas & Gates School Septic System Flow Variance Request

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health



Dr. William Taylor-Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health