

Acton Board of Health

Room 126, Acton Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

November 28, 2016

Members Present: Joanne Bissetta –Chairman, Mark Conoby
And William Taylor. William McInnis and Michael Kreuze were not present.

Staff Present: Sheryl Ball- Health Director
Evan Carloni – Health Agent

Other Present: Peggy Mikkola and Katie Green

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Board of Health Wastewater System Policy - Amendments

The Health Department seeks an addition to the current onsite wastewater system policy. The Health Department has seen an increase in the use of Innovative and Alternative “I/A” systems in Acton. One of the benefits of I/A systems is the reduction in square footage they receive from the State Approval Letter. The I/A systems receive a reduction in physical square footage back of the ability to treat more effluent per foot of line or chamber. The current policy does not allow approval at the Health Department level of these systems at the reduced square footage and these routine requests would need to be approved by the Board. The Health Department proposes to add the following, 11-8 Table 1: Minimum Required Disposal Areas, allowing a reduction in the physical square footage from Acton Regulations for use of I/A systems:

The Public Health Director may approve “I/A” systems which receive a reduction in physical square footage by MassDEP, as long as the systems calculated square footage equals whichever area is greater, the Acton Minimum Required Disposal Areas (Table 1), or LTAR table from section 15.242 in Title 5. Such approval will be subject to the “Standard Conditions” imposed on each permit issued by the Acton Board of Health and reasonable conditions for compensating environmental compliance that the Director sees fit to impose on the project, such as, but not limited to, use of dual compartment tanks, effluent tee filters, and/or additional settling tanks and/or barriers.

Mr. Carloni stated that the Acton Board of Health Regulations, Article 11, Table 1 Minimum Square Footages was implemented before I/A systems were common. Mr. Carloni also stated that the I/A systems which have been approved for increased square footage treatment per linear foot should be allowed to be designed to utilize their benefits, as long as the calculated square footage meets Acton’s minimum square footage or Title 5’s minimum square footage, whichever is higher. Mr. Carloni presented calculations he had done to show that the I/A systems can still meet Acton’s Table 1 minimum square footage via calculated square footage without having to meet the physical square footage of Table 1. The Board discussed this addition and on a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to add the above addition to the current onsite wastewater system policy.

Board of Health Rules and Regulations - Discussion

The Health Department stated that in the next year the Acton Board of Health Rules and Regulations will be updated and submitted to the Board for review. Once the Board has had time to review these proposed changes public hearings will be held prior to final approval. The Health Department stated that some Articles will need major changes and some will need minor changes. Mr. Carloni outlined some of those changes to the Board.

Board of Health – Proposed Fee Schedule

The Health Department presented the Board with a proposed fee increase. The Health Department stated that there has not been a fee increase since 2008. The proposed fee increase is approximately 5% across the board with a few exceptions. It was noted that these fees were calculated using a formula to ensure that the fees are appropriate. During discussion it was noted that a page for increases for public health fees was not included in the packet so the Board decided to vote these fees at the next available meeting.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from May 23, 2016 with corrections.

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from September 26, 2016.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



Joanne Bissetta, Chairman
Acton Board of Health