

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of January 3, 2008
Report covers from December 21, 2007 to January 2, 2008
Items requiring Board action are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Appointments – Informational Only

Symmes RE: 25 Centennial Grove Rd. Enforcement Order

B. Agreement to Connect to Municipal Sanitary Sewer

None

C. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 8 Scott's Way, PMC Realty Trust, Map 8, Lot 15C*

I reviewed the Title 5 inspection report for this property. This was done not for a sale, but for a change of use. I have reviewed the inspection report & am in agreement with the inspector, Robert Lynch, that the system passed this inspection. Unfortunately, the inspector wrote the wrong date on the form. He wrote 12-30 as the inspection date, when it was actually 12-26. I spoke to the inspector & he will resubmit a report with an accurate date.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board issue a letter to the owner stating that you are in agreement with the determination of the inspector that the system passed the 12-26-07 inspection. We can then hold off on mailing the letter until we receive the revised report.

D. Soil Evaluations / Waiver Explorations

None

E. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

None

F. Building Permit Applications & Occupancy Permits

(1) 55 Eastern Avenue, Blue Marlin, Matthews*

I reviewed a building permit application for this property.

G. Septic System Installations

None

H. Well Water Supply Certificates

(1) 75R Wood Drive, Jones, Map 4, Lot 118 *

The water analysis for the replacement well dug on this property indicate high levels of color (50 color units tested vs. 15 recommended), Iron (0.58 mg/l tested, vs. 0.3 recommended) Manganese (0.11 mg/l tested, vs. 0.05 recommended), and Sodium (69 mg/l tested, vs. 25 recommended).

I was waiting for a drilling report from the well driller. In tracking this down, I discovered that he is not a licensed well driller. He drills borings, but was called into this site to repair the well because of the tight site constraints. I did get some of the drilling info from him & additional flow information from the pump company. Although I didn't receive all the information on the well completion form, I did receive enough to confirm that the flow of the repaired well is sufficient for this house.

Recommendation: I recommend that the Water Supply Certificate be signed and a letter be issued to the owner noting the high lab test results and a recommendation that pretreatment be used on the well prior to consumption.

I. Meetings Attended (for information only)

None.

J. Complaints

(1) 99 Main St., Fortune Palace, Map 37, Lot 51

We received a complaint of a cockroach in food and dirty walls two days before the complaint. Marion inspected the day the complaint was received and did not note signs of cockroaches or rodents. He also said that he did not see dirt on the seating area walls.

The Fortune Palace owner is continuing with his pest control inspections & treatment. Because treatments can stir insect activity before they die, I am thinking that it is possible that this cockroach was seen just after a treatment application.

Recommendation: None. Informational only.

K. Hazards Abated Via Enforcement Orders

None

L. Reportable Diseases

None

M. Other Issues

(1) FY '09 Budget*

I have drafted a FY '09 budget proposal for your review. This is due to be submitted by January 9.

Recommendation: Please review & accept/change.

(2) Essex Breast Cancer Rates *

Marlene met Susan Wadia-Ellis, who is founder & director of the National Breast Cancer Prevention Project & writer of a recent article in the Gloucester Times.. She feels there is a link between estrogen and breast cancer on Cape Ann caused by septic systems in proximity to drinking wells. I have attempted to find the article referenced in *Environmental Science & Technology*, but have been unable to find it on line (you must subscribe to the website to view past articles), and our library does not subscribe. Our Librarian was also unable to find other library's that subscribe to it. She will continue to investigate for us. I also spoke to the owner of G & L labs (the lab that the state contracts to do our beach water testing). They do not test for estrogen in water, don't know of a lab that does, & have never heard the theory of this cancer-water link. I also spoke to Anita Wolovick, of DEP's Drinking Water Program. She has not heard this theory, but said they are starting to look into pharmaceuticals in drinking water. DEP does not test for estrogen in water nor does she know of a lab that does. I did FAX her a copy of the newspaper article for her review.

I will continue to see if I can find more information on this newspaper article.

Recommendation: Discussion as to if the Board wants to invite Ms. Wadia-Ellis to speak to the Board on this.

(3) 2008 Intern *

Applications are out for request of a summer intern. We had an intern 2 years ago and it worked out well. I would like to apply for another this year. At this point, there is no state funding, so the internship will be voluntary.

Recommendation: Permission to apply for a summer intern.