

Dudley Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Dudley Board of Health was called to order at 5:30PM by Chairman Roberta Johnson. Recording of meeting was acknowledged and the pledge recited.

***Members present:*** Roberta Johnson – Chairman, Jennifer Cournoyer,

**Also Present** – Luke Curtis of 4 Lous Drive

**Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted by the Board:**

Septic System Expansion Plan 4 Lous Drive

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**Variance Request for Septic at 4 Lous Drive**

Jennifer Cournoyer – They are upgrading from a 3 bedroom to a 4 bedroom and due to the lot size, they have to have so many square footage per number of bedrooms but because it is preexisting they can put in a nitrogen removal system and we can give them a variance for them to do this.

Luke Curtis – I’m coming here today to ask for the variance so that we can stay in the home. My goal is to expand the leech field. I’m open to what the board thinks is good but also cost appropriate for our situation.

Jennifer Cournoyer – For your situation this is the best thing that can be done for Title 5. I don’t know the cost of it. Unfortunately, our hands are tied by Title 5 regulations we can’t always do what is most cost effective.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I make a motion to approve the variance request to upgrade from a 3 bedroom to a 4 bedroom with the installation of a nitrogen removal system.

Roberta Johnson – I second the motion

Board Votes – Passes Unanimously

**Eagle Drive**

Jennifer Cournoyer – There was a presentation done on the private wells on Eagle Drive during the selectmen’s meeting a couple weeks ago. We have not received official notification. There are private wells on Eagle Drive that have high levels of PFAS that the town and Gentex have been dealing with. One of the things that the selectmen and Weston & Sampson were speaking with the board of health about PFAS levels in private wells and testing requirements. Currently the state has not set regulations on private wells and PFAS currently. They have only done this on public water systems. They are not bringing this down to local boards of health to enforce anything on private wells. If you have a private well, you can certainly have it done but there are only certain places that will do the test because it is such a difficult test to be done. I have concerns about making regulations without the state having regulations on this. If the state wants us to handle it then we should follow their regulations. We don’t have a health agent right now that will guide us on this. If the state isn’t doing it, we are trying to make our own regulations without anything to follow from the state. I would like more information about what is going on the past year and a half on Eagle Drive. We are the keepers of private wells, and we should have all this information.

Roberta Johnson – I think we should send an email to the other board asking for all the information and then we can discuss this further when Heather is here.

Jennifer Cournoyer – If anyone wants to test their private well for PFAS the MASS DEP website has a lot of wonderful information. If you are having trouble, just contact the office and we will get back to you.

**Permit Signoffs**

Roberta Johnson – It’s that time of year when we have a lot of permits that need to be signed off. I’m not always available until the close of business day. I don’t know if some would be time sensitive and if that is something Jen wants to help with. I don’t want to put that on you but I’m ok with you doing it if you have access to it.

**New Health Agent**

Roberta Johnson – We still don’t have one. The AD was posted and there have been some resumes received. So, we are just kind of waiting to see what we get in.

Jennifer – I think we should all review the resumes as a board and at least one of us needs to be part of the interviewing process. We know what we need in this position. So, we can get the resumes and go from there.

Roberta Johnson – Agreed.

**Public Health Nurse Report/Comments**

Roberta Johnson – The only thing I want to bring to your attention is we brought in some COVID testing kits from the state. We can have something posted on our website and Facebook page that they are in the Board of Health office. One box per person since there are five tests in one box. I also want to add that the state stopped the reporting of EEE. They are keeping an eye on things though and if there is anything else that pops up, they will send their emails out.

**Approval of Minutes August 22, 2023**

Jennifer Cournoyer – I make a motion to approve the minutes from August 22, 2023

Roberta Johnson – I second the motion

Board Votes – Passes Unanimously

**Public/Board Comments**

Jennifer Cournoyer – I wanted to remind everyone that next Thursday is our 3rd annual Spooktacular from 4-6. There will be plenty of food and games to play. It will take place from 4-6 starting with the parade from the library to the town hall.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I would like to move the next board of health meeting to November 14th instead of the 21st.

Roberta Johnson – I can do that then we can wait to discuss December’s meeting.

**Adjourn**

Jennifer Cournoyer – I make a motion to adjourn.

Roberta Johnson – I second the motion

Board Votes – Passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jacobson

Board of Health Clerk