

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

Ronald Etskovitz, Chair
Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Clerk
Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director

Ed Burman, Member
John Byrnes, Member
Bernadette Lunkuse, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Ron Etskovitz, Bernadette Lunkuse and Ed Burman

Members Absent

Barbra Sekesogundu-Simon, John Byrnes

Others Present:

Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Assistant
Paul Saulnier, Engineer, Civilized Solutions

Call Meeting to Order, 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Etskovitz called the emergency meeting of the Board of Health to order at 6:06 P.M, and noted that the meeting is being recorded.

10 Saddle Hill Lane, Variance Request to Approve Proposed Well Plan (Pending Emergency Certification from Conservation Commission)

Mr. Etskovitz announced that this is an emergency meeting so that the Board can review a variance and well plan for 10 Saddle Hill Lane.

Paul Saulnier, Engineer for Civilized Solutions, thanked the Board for attending this emergency meeting tonight; he noted that the well at the property has gone dry and has created a difficult situation for the owners. Northeast Water Wells called and requested that he go out and certify the location of the well. Unfortunately, wetlands were discovered. They were told by the Conservation Agent to identify the wetlands on the plan, which he did. Mr. Saulnier explained that the well driller recommended the well to be located as far away from the current well as possible, to hopefully find a different fissure or crack in the bedrock. Mr. Saulnier had wanted it closer to the existing well, which would have been easier to connect to the existing waterline, and less expensive, but the well driller really felt it should be there. The location is a compromise of meeting Title 5 requirement, which is 100-feet from the Soil Absorption System (SAS), as opposed to getting further away and closer to the wetlands.

As the plan proposes, the well location is 55-60-feet off the edge of the wetlands, and exactly 100-feet off the leaching field. Mr. Saulnier noted that they are asking for a variance from Ashland Well Regulations that require the well to be 125-feet from the SAS. The home is unusable and has no water for drinking; he would like to see the well drilled as soon as possible.

Mr. Etskovitz inquired, and Mr. Saulnier replied, that this is not an irrigation well, it is a domestic well only. Mr. Burman inquired what happens to the existing well; Mr. Saulnier explained that the dry well was not caused by the low water table, or drought. It draws water from fissures or fractures in the bedrock. Over the years the fissures fill with silt, sand and gravel as it moves. They tried to reverse pressure on the well in the past, which helped temporarily. The existing well will need to be capped and sealed. It is very costly and will be done at the same time.

Mr. Gupta noted that we are waiting for an Emergency Certification to be issued by the Conservation Commission, which should be done tonight.

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to approve a variance from the Ashland Board of Health Water Supplies, Private and Semi-Public Regulations, Chapter 315-3E2, to allow the installation of a replacement well to be located 100-feet from the leaching area, versus the required 125-feet from the leaching area, located uphill from such a well at 10 Saddle Hill Lane, pending approval of an Emergency Certification by the Ashland Conservation Commission. Ms. Lunkuse seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Saulnier thanked the Board for holding this emergency meeting tonight and approving the variances.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Lunkuse seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Well Plan and Variance Request, 10 Saddle Hill Road
2. A recording of the meeting is on file in the Board of Health Office