

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health  
April 19, 2011**

Present: Board Members Jeff Brem Chair, Bill Risso, Mark Caddell; Cathy Galligan; Absent - Elizabeth Nilson Ostrow; also present: Linda Fantasia, Agent, Anne Marie Brako (Carlisle Mosquito); John Luther (Building Commissioner), John Bakewell, Ginny Lamere, Ben Ewing (SMI), Randy Brown, Mike Pelletier, Peter Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by acting chairman Mark Caddell. Jeff Brem arrived later.

**MINUTES** – tabled to next meeting

**BILLS** – It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Risso) to approve the bills as presented. Discussion – bills included salaries and grant expenses. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Drug Take Back Program –April 30, 2011. Carlisle Police Department is not sponsoring a collection nor are they able to dispose of controlled substances if collected at the Hazardous Waste Collection. Carlisle residents are invited to Bedford and Chelmsford collections. Other sites are available at the DEA website. A press release was put in the Mosquito.

Flu Vaccine – Children will be the primary target for flu vaccine next year. State will provide 100% based on number of doses administered last year for children, but only expect 50% doses for adults 18+. Carlisle did not request vaccine for children. Carlisle received 250 adult doses and administered 75; remaining vaccine was used by EHHC at other public clinics. The state vaccine is for uninsured or underinsured. Carlisle billed private insurers through Commonwealth Medicine. Carlisle should get estimated \$598 reimbursement for public clinic. The senior clinic nursing hours (\$434.07) was paid with PHER funds. .

Radio Antenna – scheduled for installation at school and police dept on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Contract signed. Fantasia suggests doing a Photo Op. The school is interested in offering an after school course if one of the HAM operators is available.

Region 4A MRC Conference – May 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a daylong educational event to be held in Stow. Communities are asked to bring teams to work on a shelter exercise. It is a good opportunity for volunteers from different communities to get together. Sign up on Region 4A website.

District Incentive Grant – two proposals are under consideration; one from Donna Moulthrop and another from Brent Reagor for the Planning grant award of \$30,000. Carlisle is classified as “willing to consider” but not committed. Both Risso and Fantasia liked Moulthrop’s proposal. She has a public health nursing background and offered a more personalized approach. The decision will be made by the committed communities, but others will be kept informed.

Unpaid Barn Fees – The Board reviewed a list of 25 unpaid sites. A second request has been sent out. The Board instructed Fantasia to call the animal owners with a reminder. (Brem arrived and took over the chair).

Old Home Day Application (July 2d) – The Board agreed to ask for a booth. The trailer will not be used. Fantasia will contact the MRC Executive Committee for assistance. The Board suggested information on Lyme Disease, Risky Behavior in Teens, Septic Loan Program, Blackboard Connect and the MRC.

Boy Scout Project – Fantasia suggested work on the MRC trailer as an Eagle Project. Board members were not sure it had sufficient scope, but might be a general scout project. The trailer needs to be stained inside and all of the contents removed, organized, and repacked. Fantasia will check with John Gorecki, Carlisle Scout Master.

Oakson Inc – the company is interested in doing a presentation for the board and/or local installers and engineers. They recently installed a system at 236 Lowell Street but it is not online yet because the house is undergoing renovations. Fantasia will notify the Board when Oakson does the start up. The Board did not want to sponsor an

event for local installers and engineers, but agreed to invite the company to give a presentation at a Board meeting. Installers must be trained in order to put in a system.

Ice Cream Stands – Kimball’s and Great Brook passed inspections and seasonal licenses were issued.

Arsenic Studies – The Board reviewed research information provided by Galligan which shows that there are other sources of arsenic such as poultry as a result of an additive used in the feed.

**318 MAPLE STREET** – Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) Installation. Present for the meeting was Mike Pelletier of Skillings & Sons, and Paul Wilson of Wilson Bros. HVAC. Also present was John Luther, Building Commissioner.

The proposal is to convert an existing private domestic water well to a geothermal and domestic well. The owners are interested in the environmental and cost benefits of a GSHP. The system will be used for both heating and cooling. Pelletier explained the mechanics of using ground water as a heat source. The GSHP withdraws groundwater and discharges it back to an aquifer for the purpose of transferring heat to or from the earth for heating and cooling purposes. These systems take advantage of the fairly constant temperature below the surface of the ground, normally between 48°- 51°. This heat can be extracted for use in the building. The system bleed is a quantity of water that is discharged to a different location in order to control the temperature of the GSHP well. necessary to keep the temperature from being too high. Pelletier and Wilson estimated a 6-7 year return on the investment. An open loop well is more efficient than a closed loop system, but water quality can be a problem. The existing well is a 400’ deep bedrock well which is an open loop system (standing column well). The pump will be installed at a depth of 380’. The return line is to be set 40’ below the maximum draw down level which was determined to be 28’. An existing shallow well will be used for the system bleed rated at .9 gpm. DEP issued a MA Registration number for the UIC. Pelletier provided the board with copies of the DEP conditional approval for the GSHP along with copies of a comprehensive and VOC water tests. The testing was done to assure that there would be no problems, such as arsenic, which would prevent the well’s use for the GSHP. Iron was not a problem which is unusual in Carlisle.

The Board had a number of questions on how the system was sized and its operation. They reviewed the schematics provided. Pelletier said that although the house is older, it has been updated. The oil heating system will be removed. The new well pump will have a variable speed controller. Pelletier has no reason to believe that the well was not constructed according to local requirements, including a steel casing. The Board asked about the drawdown. Wilson said there is an automatic shut off should there be a problem. The temperature return is approximately 6° less than the input. A GSHP pumps at 12 gpm and at 5 gpm for domestic water. A variable pressure valves will be installed to reduce pressure throughout the system. Wilson said he had done a number of GSHPs in MA and many more in NH. Luther asked for a ballpark cost and Pelletier estimated around \$26,000 for the entire system. This would include ductwork, pump, and electrical. The Board asked why they waited to apply when DEP issued its approval in February. Wilson said the owners wanted to wait until after winter to start construction. Prior to bringing the system online, the design must be certified and the well tested for copper and bacteria. The well meets the required setbacks. The Board reviewed the location of the well compared to abutting properties. The Board asked about future maintenance. If changes need to be made to the system, it will be important to chlorinate the well because it provides household drinking water. Wilson said the heating system requires little maintenance. The Board decided on the following conditions: (1) label the input and output lines as domestic water lines; (2) test the water for bacteria once a year; (3) test the backflow preventer valves during the annual system maintenance; (4) submit all reports to the Board. There were no further comments.

It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Caddell) to issue a permit for the installation of a Ground Source Heat Pump in the existing private well at 318 Maple Street with the four conditions stated above. Discussion – the Board reviewed the septic plan to verify well location and setbacks to the leaching area and property lines. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**1075 CURVE STREET** – addition. Present for the meeting was Ben Ewing of Stamski & McNary.

Ewing explained that the addition does not meet the setback distances to the septic tank and leaching area. The addition will have a full foundation. The foundation will be 6’ from the tank and 14’ from the leaching area. The

Board was unclear what action was required of it. There is no Title 5 permit required since the system exists. If the Board approves the addition, it would cause the system to be non-conforming. It was suggested that the permitting of the addition was a Building Code issue. John Luther (present for a later discussion) said he would be looking for a sign off from the Board of Health. Fantasia said she had discussed the request with Rob Frado based on a similar request a few years ago. The request had been forwarded to DEP for clarification. DEP's position was that reduction in setback to an existing system was a local decision. No state review was required. The Board could not agree on how this process would work without granting a waiver for new construction. The Board questioned whether this should be a Health or Building Department permitting process. The Board asked if the addition could be pulled back or cantilevered to maintain setbacks. Luther said it might be difficult. The Board also asked whether shoring would be needed when excavating the soils around the septic components. Ewing said this would be addressed in the field. Luther also suggested waterproofing the foundation wall as an additional precaution. Ewing agreed this could be done. The Board decided to have Frado contact DEP for further clarification on how to review the request. One hour of engineering time will be required.

**NOISE CONTROL** – present for the discussion were Ginny Lamere and John Bakewell.

Bakewell said that the main issue regarding noise was the extensive use of a hoe ram last summer at Chestnut Estates. This noise is unlike most others. It should only be used when there are no alternatives. Bakewell proposed that hoe ramming be limited in hours per day and days per site. He suggested that a developer be required to rule out blasting before hoe ramming could be used. Tree clearing is also very noisy, but there is an order of magnitude when hoe ramming is done over an extensive period of time that causes it to be particularly unbearable. Bakewell said the only way to get an opinion on whether the use of a hoe ram is acceptable, would be to rule out blasting. He would prefer blasting over hoe ramming. Brem said that the extended use of a hoe ram at Chestnut Estates was due to a 1000' blast survey that delayed the actual blasting. He felt the requirement imposed by the Planning Board may have been too restrictive. Luther said the Planning Board has jurisdiction over roadways. This includes drainage and contour blasting and drilling. Once the road is in, the lots can be developed. Luther estimated that 80% of the road work was done. Bakewell was concerned that a hoe ram would be used for cutting out foundations. Luther said it would depend on the amount of ledge uncovered. Luther said that requiring a pre-blast proposal would have to apply to all sites in town under development. The school construction project will use blasting and hoe ramming. Brem said it may not be economically feasible to blast for a foundation hole. Bakewell said the concerns about blasting are unfounded. He would much prefer blasting. He is concerned that it might be more expedient for a developer to use a hoe ram and this should not be the determinant.

Brem said the Board is only responsible for septic permits and they are not built on ledge. He is concerned about regulating an activity for which the Board has no permitting process and which may not happen very frequently. These situations could be addressed through another process such as a pre-construction meeting rather than a town wide regulation. Bakewell said the Board is required to protect the health of the citizens of Carlisle. Excessive noise can be a health risk. The Board has the authority to act pro-actively through a regulation even if a permit is not required. Excessive noise should be limited and if an activity such as a hoe ram must be used, the contractor should have to prove that there is no other acceptable alternative. Brem said the Board reacts to a complaint. It is difficult for the Board to anticipate every situation that might cause a health risk. The Board is reactive not pro-active. Bakewell said the Board could set expectations rather than waiting for a complaint. It should be possible to anticipate which developments might have a problem with construction noise. Bakewell said he is not trying to hold up or limit development. He is looking for an objective way to decide whether construction noise can be mitigated. A blasting proposal would answer this. Luther disagreed noting that blasting proposals may disagree. It could be difficult to decide. Brem agreed that lots need to be stripped before it can be determined how much rock will need to be removed. Requiring a blasting proposal would delay construction. He was not certain this would be within the Board's authority to require. If the Board receives a complaint, however, it is required to evaluate the situation. Depending on the results, the Board could then decide whether different options should be considered. He also recommended that developers and abutters communicate to find ways of mitigating impacts. Bakewell agreed with this strategy. He and Lamere will prepare a strategy which they will give to the developer. The developer would then respond to their concerns. Risso said it was a reasonable request to ask when a hoe ram would be used. Residents could then plan their day around the noise. Brem said the Board of Health is still available to deal with nuisances. Bakewell thought a mutual meeting with the board and builder might be helpful if the issues were not resolved. There was no further discussion.

**SOLAR ENERGY ZONING BYLAW** – John Luther, representing the Energy Task Force, addressed the Board. The group is meeting with various boards to encourage support of the bylaw and answer questions. The zoning amendment would allow a photovoltaic site at the DPW Transfer Station on Lowell Road. The town is required to have at least one identified site as part of the Green Community application. Permits would be issued by the Selectmen through the Site Plan Review process. Galligan had attended a previous informational meeting. The Board of Health will be taking over the permitting of the transfer station next year although the DPW will still be in charge of operations. Galligan said the state is requiring more recycling efforts which could require additional land area. If the solar panels are installed, they would remove this area as a potential recycling location. Although unlikely, it should be considered since there would need to be a buffer zone around the solar panels and an operations building.

The Board discussed whether it should take a position on the zoning amendment. The Board supports solar energy because it reduces emissions. Randy Brown, present for another discussion, said it might be possible to offset some of the energy costs for a municipal project. Solar energy not only reduces emissions, but providing a single location is less disruptive than individual panels located on residential lots. The Board favored supporting the warrant article.

It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Caddell) to support the Solar Energy Zoning Amendment Bylaw in that the use of solar energy reduces emissions and a single location would be less disruptive. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**MANURE COMPOSTING DISCUSSION** - present for the meeting was Randy Brown of the Recycling Committee.

Brown has been looking into the possibility of establishing an O2 composting system that utilizes active aeration of manure in order to produce superior compost for local gardeners. Unlike anaerobic decay which results in excessive ammonia and methane gas, active aeration reduces pathogens and parasite and provides more nutrients for the soils. A local horse owner (Barney Arnold) had agreed to locate the system on her property. Brown had intended to apply for a state grant to build the system but the funding source is no longer available. The grant would have required a 40% service in kind which Brown intended to accomplish with local seminars and workshops. He had intended to ask the Board for a letter of support. Brown said that many Carlisle gardeners are unaware of the differences in compost material. It is more than just aged manure. He would like the Board to support his efforts to educate gardeners about “finished” compost. The Board asked for more details on the system. Brown said that Arnold has 15-16 horses. The structure would be a three-bay system in which piles of manure and bedding would be aerated, rested and rotated. Stalls would be cleaned out into the bays with a blower to aerate the piles. He suggested using soft wood pellets rather than shavings in the stalls. They are cheaper and become sawdust when wet. Brem noted that Westford had received a grant from the Soil Conservation Service for a similar operation. Brown was familiar with the organization. Although there is no need for the Board to submit a letter of support for a grant, Brown still thinks such an operation would be a benefit to local gardeners. The purpose of the grant was to set up and run at least one prototype of the operation in town. Brown also mentioned the need for a permit to transport solid waste in town. Mark Duffy is the only one with a permit to do so. Brown is not certain how compost is delivered to Foss Farm. If funding becomes available, Brown estimated it would take about 120 hours to prepare the application. Risso said his brother received funding from the Farm Bureau to deal with runoff. He suggested Brown look into the Farm Bureau.

The Board was in favor of supporting Brown’s efforts and would be available to help with promoting the issue through workshops and seminars. The Board noted that it typically chooses a topic of interest each year. Last year it held a presentation on Lyme. The Board thanked Brown for his time spent on the subject.

### **Administrative Reports (continued)**

Composting Guidelines – ongoing

School Building Project – the contractor submitted asbestos removal and demolition plans. Risso had reviewed the documents and found them to be acceptable.

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Hazardous Waste Collection – Risso volunteered to help.

Town Meeting – A letter of support for the Solar Bylaw will be submitted to the Energy Task Force. Any Board member is present at town meeting could give an endorsement on behalf of the Board.

There was no further business discussed. Meeting voted to adjourn at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Fantasia  
Recorder