

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health  
September 15, 2015**

Bill  
Administrative Reports  
Minutes 8/25/15 (tentative)

Benfield Farms – FAST System Operation #1

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

338 Bedford Road #2

- Status report (Risso, Fantasia)
- Board of Health memo 9/10/15

Food Establishment Inspections #3

- Pure7 Chocolate
- Great Brook Farm Ice Cream Stand
- Kimball's Ice Cream Stand

95 Hanover Road – public record request #4

Installer issues to be resolved #5

Animal Inspector Fee

Board of Selectmen Goals and Objectives for comment #6

Irrigation Policy – discussion #7

**NEW BUSINESS**

October meeting date (10/27/15 is town election)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:01 pm at town hall. Present were Board members Bill Risso (Chairman), Lee Storrs, Catherine Galligan, Donna Margolies, and Todd Thorsen. Also present Linda Fantasia, Health Agent, Helen Lyons, Carlisle Mosquito.

**BILLS – payrolls, nursing, engineering and food establishment inspections. It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Thorsen) to approve the bills as presented for payment. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS –**

**Lead Paint Removal Complaint** – The tenant called to say the painting contractors were not taking precautions while scraping the outside of the building. Fantasia inspected the site and advised the workers on proper handling of the lead paint debris. There was no answer on the company phone. The landlord lives in California. Fantasia will follow up with the Property Manager and check with the painting company that they are certified to do lead paint remodeling.

**Clark Farm Retail Store** – Fantasia will meet with Kristen Cummings, manager, sometime next week. The Farm Stand has a state wholesale license but also needs a local one.

**Pre-submission Policy for Multi-Unit Developments** – Both the Planning Board and Conservation are in favor of having the Selectmen establish a town policy. Fantasia will work with Willard and Mansfield on the policy.

**Rutland Street Development** – The Board received a letter from Glen Urban stating that he will not be developing the three lots off Rutland Street since he was unable to obtain an extension on the purchase and sale agreement. Urban was very grateful to the Board of Health for arranging the land use staff meeting. It provided good information on the multiple permits that would be required.

**Fern's Inspection Report** – Frado inspected the septic system when it was pumped last week. There is some rain water infiltration into the tank. Gaskets were replaced. The grease trap under the sink is emptied on a regular basis. The composting toilet is being inspected by Clivus Associates. They will send their reports electronically to the Board in the future. All of the systems are in good working order.

**Dog Officer Position** – The Board will be included in the Selectmen’s decision on how to fill the vacancy since dog bites are reportable to the health department. Larry Sorli, Animal Inspector, is interested in the position. Another option would be an Inter-municipal Agreement with Westford.

**Public Records Request** – The Board received a request from a local attorney for all septic and well records and regulations from January 1, 1960 to present. Records were identified and estimate sent 9/9/15. Fantasia researched the records and prepared a cost estimate which will have to be prepaid. The Board of Health was established in April, 1982. Prior to that time the Selectmen performed those duties and had control of the records.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**338 Bedford Road** – Risso and Fantasia reported on the land use departments meeting with the Housing Trust. The Trust consists of members of the Board of Selectmen and residents Karina Coombs and Carolyn Ing. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways of expediting the permitting process for the town sponsored group home being developed by TILL, Inc. According to town counsel the development requires a Site Plan Review which requires a public hearing before the Selectmen. The project also needs a septic and well permit from the Board of Health and an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission. Since project is classified for educational purposes the Selectmen will consider waiving some of the Site Plan Review requirements.

At the previous Board of Health meeting, TILL, Inc agreed to design for 110 gpd/bedroom rather than the 65 gpd/person used for dormitories. The Board felt 65 gpd/person was not appropriate in that dormitories do not have kitchens and full occupancy for only certain periods. The group homes will have year round residents. The Board noted that dormitories often have more than one person per bedroom so the overall flows could be greater than 110 gpd/bedroom. TILL proposes to restrict the bedrooms to single occupancy although 110 gpd/bedroom would allow for two people per bedroom.

The question of nitrogen loading needs to be decided. The lease area is only 1.36 acres which does not provide sufficient land area for a nine bedroom system (990 gpd/bedroom requires 2.25 acres). Alan Lehotsky of the Carlisle Housing Authority felt that since the town purchased the parcel which is 5.46 acres the entire area is available for nitrogen loading. Fantasia pointed out that Title 5 requires that the system owner, which will be TILL, must have control over the land being used for nitrogen loading so that it is protected from impediments such as impervious surfaces or additional nitrogen disposal. It was suggested that the Housing Authority obtain a legal opinion. The septic design will be filed shortly. The Board is willing to hold a special meeting to expedite the permitting process.

**Benfield Farms Development** – Ongoing discussion of FAST System test results and the issuance of an Enforcement Order by the Board. Present: Toby Kramer (NOAH), Lauren Usilton (J&R Engineering Products), Mike Moreau (Waste Treatment Systems), Jim Bell (Biomicrobics), Alan Lehotsky (Carlisle Housing Authority) and Alan Carpenito (resident)

The Enforcement Order (EO) was issued on September 1, 2015 to NOAH to document the failure of the FAST System to meet the local and state discharge limits and to establish corrective actions including weekly testing and adding carbon and alkalinity to the system.

Moreau reported that approximately 2 liters of MicroC 1000 (liquid carbon) was added on 9/2/15 to the Equalization Tank and a temporary carbon feed was installed. Eight pounds of Sodium Bicarbonate was also added to the tank to boost alkalinity. Testing results showed a definite improvement. Moreau said the temporary feed was a crude mechanism and needs to be fine-tuned. They also tested for Dissolved Oxygen in the effluent pump chamber before and after treatment and there was little change. On 9/8/15 they added sugar from inside the building but it was not adequate by the time it reached the FAST System. The added carbon may need to be dialed back so that it does not result in a higher Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). Moreau provided the product information and material data safety sheet on the MicroC1000 carbon source. Moreau was satisfied with the overall results of the temporary feed and would recommend looking at a short, interim and eventually long term system.

Kramer said that it takes time for the chemicals to work. They want to be 100% certain that the fix is achieving results before investing in a permanent feed system. The Board said it would prefer to move towards the long term fix now since winter is approaching. Cold weather will make it more difficult for the system to operate and any gains in bacteria growth could be lost. Moreau said that a typical septic tank remains between 62°-64°. It doesn't fluctuate. He is not concerned that the biomass will die off. The blowers also warm up the system.

Bell said the system is working as it should and will eventually establish the proper nitrogen cycle. The testing results indicate that the system is running out of Carbon. It needs a supplement. He felt the system responded nicely with the temporary feed. A more permanent solution should be considered.

Storrs said the 90 TKN was not expected. Bell said the system is designed for 60. This is a trend which may be the result of flush volume. TKN is related to a decrease in flush volume as a result of low flush toilets. Usilton said the important thing is to identify what needs to be done immediately and long term. They are working with NOAH on a permanent solution. Once the correct solution is identified they will come up with a plan to install it. Risso said the permanent solution will take time. NOAH will need to access the components under the parking area which means cutting into the pavement. Bell agreed that adding the carbon into a 12000 gallon septic tank would not be very helpful. It needs a direct feed into the Equalization Tank. Kramer was concerned about the cost. Benfield is on a very tight budget. The proposed work could cost \$4200/yr. to maintain if it includes an Alkalinity source. She agreed that the Carbon feed was the most critical and suggested that the Alkalinity could be incorporated later. Galligan asked that the testing blanks be filled in on the testing matrix and resubmitted. Moreau agreed. Usilton said the data proves that the system and the temporary fix are working. The Board agreed but wants testing results for a longer period.

Moreau said there have been no complaints about odor and he has not noticed any. Carpenito said he noticed a very earthy odor on the driveway and close to the pump house. He wondered if the releases contained harmful bacteria. The Board assured him this was not the case. Carpenito felt there should be no odor. Galligan asked if NOAH was considering the underground Biovent. Kramer said the residents had not complained of any odors. She and the engineer were recently at the site and did not notice anything. Moreau questioned whether the odor might be from the dumpster when it was full or being hauled away.

Risso said the next step should be adapting a more permanent feed system. The Board wants this done as soon as possible. Kramer said they have been very proactive in addressing the situation. Risso pointed out that the DEP Certification for FAST states that the system should be operational within 30 days. Bell said this statement is incorrect and does not reflect the reality of field installations. Storrs pointed out that the system has not been in compliance since June of 2014. Usilton said there were multiple issues and problems and it took time to correct each one. They were concerned about not meeting the discharge limits which is why they contacted BioMicrobics for advice. Now that a solution has been identified it needs to be implemented. Kramer agreed to proceed as quickly as possible. If Board wants Rob Frado to review the plan there would be a cost. Risso said the Board would like the plans by 9/27/15. The next meeting is 9/29/15. He and Storrs would be available to discuss any questions prior to the plan submittal. Thorsen was concerned about the lateness of the season. Winter is approaching and there is no guarantee that the cold weather will not stress the system into crashing again.

The Board agreed that NOAH and the system operator have been working diligently on the problem but the Board would have liked this information months ago. Moreau said they have been dealing with one problem after another. By separating out the problems they have been able to resolve most of them. The new data is helpful. He explained how they propose to install the feed lines which can later be used by a more permanent system. The Board felt the plan was reasonable. Kramer said they would return on 9/29/15 with a more detailed plan. Risso and Storrs offered to review preliminary plans. Risso said he would also like NOAH to move forward on eliminating the odors that are still noticeable. They could install a Biovent in a trench or move the vent to the roof line. Kramer said they would consider their options.

**95 Hanover Road** – Dr. Nouvellon, owner, met with the Town Administrator and the Building Inspector earlier in the day. At one point she came into the Board of Health office raising her voice and demanding assistance. She was accompanied by her contractor. Nouvellon finally wrote down her request for records but did not leave the building. She continued to meet with her contractor in a conference room even though her meeting with the Town

Administrator and Building Inspector had ended and they had left the building. The police were notified and Nouvellon eventually left. Nouvellon has been extremely difficult to deal with when she visits town hall. She becomes argumentative and emotional and has accused the Board of Health and staff of not doing their jobs. Staff should not be subjected to emotional outbursts or threats of litigation. Fantasia would like the Selectmen to provide a better way for staff to deal with her in person, on the phone and via email.

**Septage Hauler Issues** – Fantasia suggested that the Board look into Haulers who make recommendations to homeowners to purchase septic system additives. The Board does not endorse the use of additives to improve septic functioning except under certain circumstances. Only DEP approved additives can be used and the Board must give prior approval.

**Septic Installer Issues** - Fantasia said an installer became very difficult to deal with over a scheduling conflict. Rizzo offered to contact the installer to better understand his concerns to be followed up by a letter from the Board, if necessary. Fantasia also got a call from a resident questioning a hauler's \$25 town fee for submitting septic pump out reports to the town. There is no such fee. The Board is tracking installation inspection results which should help homeowners in choosing a contractor. The Board agreed to continue its discussion at a future meeting.

**Barn Fees** – The Animal Inspectors had asked for an increase of \$10 per inspection. The Board had taken the request under advisement but had not made a decision. Townspeople may object to a \$35 fee if they only have one or two chickens. Fantasia suggested reimbursing the Inspectors for mileage but the Board felt this would be difficult to predict. Another option would be a range of fees depending on the number of animals onsite. The Board agreed to meet with the Animal Inspectors, Larry Sorli and Deb Toher, to discuss the fees. The Agricultural Commission will be invited to attend.

**Food Establishment Inspections** – Randy Phelps inspected Pure7, Kimballs Ice Cream Stand, and Great Brook Farm Ice Cream. All three establishments passed. (Galligan left the meeting)

**Selectmen's Goals and Objectives** – Rizzo suggested that Board members forward comments to Fantasia.

**Shelter Training** – 9/30/15. Plans are going well. Invitations are being sent out.

There was no further business. Meeting voted to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Fantasia  
Recorder