Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 1999

Present: Ellen Foberg, Leonard Laffond, Mary Jo Phelps and Melissa Quinn

Bill Foster (Building Inspector) was also present.

Mr. Foster brought in an application for a building permit from Marge and Al Morse for the Board to approve. Bill stated that the contractor had called him "every day" asking for the approved application and Bill questioned why it had taken two weeks. Chairman Foberg explained that the Board was unable to act on the application for two reasons; 1. the application did not state what the addition was for, and 2. the application did not give a floor plan or sketch for the existing structure. In order to determine compliance with existing Title 5 codes, the Board must have the above information. Bill insisted that it did say on the permit the purpose of the addition, and became agitated and loud. Chairman Foberg was finally able to explain that the information that the Board needs to see to make a determination was not on the application, including the proposed use of the new addition and the current layout of the existing structure. When asked why he did not call her to let her know he was being pressured for a quicker resolution, he said that he didn't want to bother her. The Chairman said that she wished that he had called her and in the future he should not hesitate to call her, either at home or at her regular job. Chairman Foberg then called the property owner to determine the layout of the existing structure and the proposed use for the addition. With this information, the Board was able to determine that the application appeared to comply with Title 5 codes, and Chairman Foberg indicated approval by signing all three copies. The Administrative Assistant offered to assist the Building Inspector to change the building permit application so that all of the information needed could be included on the form.

Results of a water sample test taken at the Corarito residence on at 162 Zoar Road was received from Doug Corarito. This was in response to a letter from Chairman Foberg. (See attached.) It was noted that not all of the tests required by Title 5 appear to have been done (VOC's, ammonia nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen). The tests required are to help the Board determine that the water has not been contaminated due to the close proximity of the well to the septic system (no more than 45 feet.) It was the consensus that this is particularly important since the property may be rented at some point. Another letter will be sent to Mr. Corarito requesting that they have the additional tests done.

A copy of a letter from Health Agent Sharon White to Rebecca Bradley relative to health code violations at her Bed & Breakfast was received for file. A re-inspection is scheduled for December 8th.

It was noted that fees for the services of the Health Agent have been significant, largely due to several re-inspections. A letter was received from Regional Health Services informing the Board that they have received a grant that would give Rowe 22.5 hours (@

40.00 per hours) of free time for the Health Agent for housing code violations, among other things. Ms. Quinn will call to see if the Town might receive some credit for money already spent for a property at issue due to housing code violations.

It was reported that Nurse Practitioner Ruth Loomis would like to know if the Board desired her to obtain office hour coverage for three days in December while she is in Boston at a conference. She informed the Board that there are no patients without a primary care provider, and none currently at risk. She felt it was not necessary to provide coverage, and noted that even doctors do not keep their offices staffed while they are away. The Board concurred with her recommendation, provided that she post her absence and make sure her patients are informed ahead of time of the specific dates she will not be available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Absent (12/7/99)
Ellen L. Foberg, Chairman

Leonard J. Laffond

Mary Jo Phelps