Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2001

Present: Ellen Foberg, Mary Jo Phelps, Geoffrey Bagley & Melissa Quinn

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm.

Chairman Phelps said that she received a call from Greg Poehlein (61 Zoar Road) who reported that his septic system has failed. The leach area has broken out above ground on his lawn. The Board sent him a copy of everything in the file for his property, which consisted of the Title 5 report (Thomas Leue was the inspector) and minutes reporting the receipt of the report. Mr. Poehlein told the Chairman that he has hired an attorney and plans to take legal action against the former owners (James & Georgia O'Brien). He said that they have also spent a considerable sum of money on well repairs. The problems began immediately after they moved in to the house last year. In light of failure of the system, it was the consensus to ask Mr. Poehlein to come to a meeting of the Board in order to discuss remediation.

In receipt of application fees of $25.00 each, it was voted to grant the following licenses:

Septic System Installer's License	James Williams Rowe, MA
Septic System Pumper/Hauler License	Houghton Sanitary Service Guilford, VT

Chairman Phelps will re-inspect the Rowe School, the Camp/Conference Center and the Maple House B&B just to follow up on a few minor infractions found when the original food establishment inspections were done. It was noted that the Maple House B&B still has not submitted the $25.00 application fee and is now actually operating without a license. It was reported that the owner, Becky Bradley objects to having to pay the fee, and Chairman Phelps will explain to her that an application fee is charged to help offset the cost of the Health Agent's fees for conducting inspections. It is felt that since these are *business licenses*, taxpayers should not bear the full burden of the inspection cost. It was noted that the $25.00 application fee does not begin to cover these costs, especially when several re-inspections are required. In the future, application fees must be paid in advance of the scheduling of the actual inspection to avoid a reoccurrence of this problem. The Board may also consider requiring applicants to bear the full cost of excessive re-inspections necessitated by the applicant's failure bring the facility into compliance within a reasonable time.

A septic pumping log was received for the William Baker property (65 Stone Hill Road) from Bostley Sanitary Service. The 1000-gallon tank was pumped on October 26, 2000 and appeared to be in good condition.

Water test results were received for the town hall, Rowe School and Pelham Lake Park for July through November. All tests were satisfactory. It was noted however that backflow devices at the school and town hall failed when tested. Both have since been replaced.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Mary Jo Phelps, Chairman

Ellen L. Foberg

Geoffrey N. Bagley