Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2001

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 PM.

A letter from Park Commissioner Karl Jurentkuff concerning regulations for water testing at bathing beaches was read. Chairman Phelps noted that Park Commission Chairman Bill Loomis is scheduled to come to the next meeting of the Board to discuss this matter.

In receipt of a check for $25.00, the Board voted unanimously to renew a septic system installers license for Thomas Danek (Danek Excavating) for 2001.

There was a discussion relative to policies for issuance of septic installers licenses. Chairman Phelps contacted Paul Neitupsky at DEP relative to a request from a property owner (Russell Jolly) to obtain a license for her husband so that he could install a septic system at their property on Stone Road. Mr. Neitupsky advised that homeowners should not be issued installers licenses, especially a "one-time" license for their own system. He also advised that the Board develop a policy in this regard, and recommended a Title 5 installers course offered in Lee, MA as a pre-requisite. It was reported that both Ashfield and Deerfield require a new applicant to take a written test (administered by the health agent) and/or provide two referrals from other towns where the applicant holds current licenses. The Town of Heath requires that the applicant have a hoisters license so that they know that the applicant is familiar with "dig-safe" practices. It was also felt that evidence that an applicant has worked as an apprentice for a reasonable period with a recognized installer, or perhaps a state-issued certification or degree might be a requirement. More information will be obtained and the issue discussed again at the next meeting.

Water test results were received from Berkshire Enviro-Labs for the Town Hall, Avery Fountain and Rowe School. All results were within permissible limits. Backflow prevention test results were received for the Town Hall and the School. Both locations had to have new back-flow prevention devices installed. Tests were successful after the new devices were installed.

A notice was received relative to training for DPW workers in pesticide spraying practices for West Nile Virus. The matter was tabled for the time being.

A letter was received from Attorney Mason regarding septic system records for the former Essert property at 208 Hazelton Road. Chairman Phelps looked in the file and found that the only records are the original application and design, and a Title 5 inspection form from Ron Lavigne for September 1999. She noted that when the new property owner came in last fall to ask about what would be required if he decided to put an addition onto the camp, Health Agent Sharon White reviewed the Title 5 report. She

stated at that time that the report should have been recorded as a "conditional pass", noting that it needed lowboy leach chambers installed, and then needed to be re-inspected. Once again, this problem is a result of a Title 5 inspection and report mishandled by Mr. Lavigne. The report should have shown what the system was composed of at the time of inspection. The installation was done without the Board's knowledge or approval. Copies of all the documents in the septic system file are to be sent to Attorney Mason.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Mary Jo Phelps, Chairman

Ellen L. Foberg

Geoffrey N. Bagley