

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
7:30 PM ZOOM
June 27, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

Statement of Compliance

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Board of Health was opened on June 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM by Chair Carluccio. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by a notice sent to the official newspapers of the Township, posted on the Township website, posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal building and filed with the Township Clerk as required by law, on February 1, 2023.

Roll Call

Committee Member (term expires)	1/24/2023	2/28/2023	3/28/2023	4/25/2023	5/23/2023	6/27/2023	7/25/2023	8/22/2023	9/26/2023	10/24/2023	11/28/2023	12/26/2023
Tracy Carluccio (12/2024) - Chair	X	A	X	X	X	X						
Leo DeCandia (12/2023) - Alternate #1	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Michael Dendis (12/2023) – TC Liaison	X	X	X	A	X	A						
Janis Grover (12/2024)	X	A	A	A	A	<i>Resigned 6/12/23</i>						
Juliet Leonard (12/2024) – Alternate #2					X	X						
Pauline Serafin (12/2023)	X	A	A	A	X	A						
Chris Sobieski (12/2023)	A	A	X	A	A	A						
Larry Tatsch (12/2024) – Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Rick Wolfe (12/2025)	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Amy Jo Merz - Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X						

Agenda Review

There were no additions to the agenda.

Presentation of Minutes

May 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to approve the May minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Presentation of Vouchers

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to approve the vouchers was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Open to the Public

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

New Business

Preview Committee

Foster, Block 25, Lot 2.03, 91 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ, Septic Application

Present was Doug Fine of Fine Engineering, LLC, to discuss replacement of a malfunctioning system to an existing four-bedroom dwelling with no expansion. This design is in full conformance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A. The plans and related documents were previously reviewed by the Preview Committee. Questions asked regarding location and orientation were answered to the satisfaction of the Board.

Motion was made to grant the following waivers requested with a condition:

1. There was only one pit bail test performed on the property. When pit bail tests are used, a minimum of two tests shall be performed per the East Amwell Township Board of Health ordinance.
 - The engineer explained that the property was tested twice. In October 2022, soil log 1 showed a slight amount of ground water due to drought conditions at the end of the season, not enough for a pit bail test. Once in the high ground water season, the property was tested again in January 2023. Ground water levels were still low due to very little snow fall/melting; however, there was adequate seepage for sufficient permeability in one pit bail test which does meet State Code.
2. The proposed septic and pump tanks are only 89 feet from the existing stream which does not meet the minimum 100-foot separation distance from a water course according to the East Amwell Township Board of Health ordinance.

- The engineer explained the tanks used are monolithic, concrete tanks with no seams below the lid to ensure a water-tight installation. The existing septic tank is only 77 feet from the existing stream so this will be an improvement over the old system. The lot size limits the ability to meet the separation distances.
3. The proposed disposal bed is only 88 feet from the existing stream which does not meet the minimum 100-foot separation distance from a water course according to the East Amwell Township Board of Health ordinance.
 - The engineer explained he will try to acquire a little more distance away from the stream when he is in the field but it may be difficult due to several, large diameter trees and that he will need to dig further down into the shale because the land is sloped.

Condition:

1. The applicant is applying for a NJDEP General Permit 24 due to wetlands located within the vicinity of the proposed disposal field. Waiver item #3 above is conditional upon the receipt of NJDEP approval and a copy of the approval will be provided by the engineer to East Amwell Township Board of Health prior to issuance of the septic system permit.

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to approve the application and waivers as outlined in the County letter and the condition outlined above, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Preview Committee

Pearl, Block 40, Lot 1.03, 67 Linvale Road, Ringoes, NJ, Septic Application

Present was Doug Fine of Fine Engineering, LLC, to discuss replacement of a malfunctioning system to an existing three-bedroom dwelling with no expansion. This design will incorporate a Hoot-500A and drip dispersal ATU which is NSF approved according to standards 40 and 245 and acceptable for a three-bedroom dwelling. The plans and related documents were previously reviewed by the Preview Committee. Questions asked regarding location and orientation were answered to the satisfaction of the Board.

Motion was made to grant the following waivers requested with conditions:

1. The use of an Advanced Treatment Unit (HOOT-500A) was reviewed and approved.
2. A recorded deed restriction stating that this type of system requires a maintenance contract for the life of the system is required.

3. Proof of fully executed service contract and reporting information, as per 7:9A(e)2, shall be provided to East Amwell Township Board of Health and Hunterdon County Department of Health.
4. A service contract signed by the owner and kept within the house is required.
5. The design engineer will inspect the system and will provide a certificate of compliance certification to East Amwell Township Board of Health and Hunterdon County Department of Health, which is stated on pages 1, 5 and 7 of the plot plan.
6. The authorized installer shall be physically present at all times during installation of the advanced wastewater treatment unit.
7. A copy of the service installer certification is to be provided to East Amwell Township Board of Health and Hunterdon County Department of Health.
8. Certification that the telemetry control panel or auto dialer for the HOOT Advanced Treatment Unit (ATU) was installed for continuous remote monitoring is required and a copy of the certification is to be provided to East Amwell Township Board of Health and Hunterdon County Department of Health.

Waivers, based on the limited size and configuration of the lot:

1. East Amwell Township requires a minimum design of 2.08 sqft/gpd which would be a minimum 1,040 square feet; however, the engineer is using the manufacturers chart of 85 min/inch percolation rate for the sizing of the drip field.
 - The engineer explained that the State has a chart to calculate what the size of the field needs to be and it goes up to 60 min/inch percolation rate for the sizing of the drip field. The regular sizing requirement would be waived in this design because the engineer is using the drip dispersal and also allow the engineer to use the manufacturers chart of 85 min/inch rather than 60 min/inch percolation rate listed in the State code. This would be done because the engineer stated that the percolation rate he obtained doing the percolation tests show it would allow the 85 min/inch rate.
2. The highest regional water table is at 15 inches which is less than the maximum required by code of 24 inches from the surface. There will be a minimum of 24 inches of separation from the water table and the drip tubing which meets code.
 - The engineer explained that this was identified based on modeling, not based on ground water because no ground water was found in any of the testing. The ground saturates from the surface down rather than from below up. The design does provide a minimum of 24 inches of separation between the drip tubes and the water table. With the water table 15 inches below the ground surface, that pulls the drip tubes

above the ground surface to make this a soil replacement drip dispersal field and mounded as well.

3. The toe of the slope will be only 14 feet from the property line, which does not meet the minimum separation distance of 25 feet as per East Amwell Township ordinance.
 - The engineer stated there is a very gradual elevation change over the course of 10 feet and the slope will not change the direction of flow. The flow of the surface water is toward the road in general and the change of grade will be blended in without any impact to the neighbor.

4. The proposed Hoot tank is only 67 feet from the existing pond on the property, which does not meet the minimum separation distance of 200 feet from a water course as per East Amwell Township ordinance. The County letter's reference to 100 feet from a water course should instead say 200 feet, per the East Amwell ordinance, since the property is located in the Sourland Mountain District. However, this does meet the State code minimum separation distance of 25 feet from the septic tank to a water course.
 - The engineer stated he would not be able to gain any greater separation distance of more than 67 feet from the pond even if he tried to turn the design 90 degrees to make the Hoot tank more parallel with Linvale Road.

5. The proposed pump tank is only 78 feet from the existing pond on the property, which does not meet the minimum separation distance of 100 feet from a water course as per East Amwell Township ordinance. The County letter's reference to 100 feet from a water course should instead say 200 feet, per the East Amwell ordinance, since the property is located in the Sourland Mountain District. However, this does meet the State code minimum separation distance of 50 feet from the disposal field to a water course.
 - The engineer stated he would not be able to gain any greater separation distance of more than 78 feet from the pond if he tried to turn the design 90 degrees to make the pump tank more parallel with Linvale Road.

6. The proposed drip dispersal field will be only 68 feet from the existing pond on the property, which does not meet the minimum distance of 200 feet from a water course when in the Mountain Zone as per East Amwell Township ordinance. However, this does meet the State code minimum separation distance of 100 feet from the drip dispersal field to a water course.
 - The engineer stated he would not be able to gain any greater separation distance of more than 68 feet from the pond if he tried to move the system closer to the road because it would encroach on the well across the street.

7. The proposed drip disposal field will be only 148 from the existing well on the property, which does not meet the minimum distance of 200 feet from a water course when in the Mountain Zone as per East Amwell Township ordinance. However, this does meet the State code minimum separation distance of 100 feet from the drip disposal field to a water course.

- The engineer stated he would not be able to gain any greater separation distance of more than 148 feet from the well if he tried to move the system closer to the road because it would encroach on the well across the street. Approval of this item is conditional, see “Conditions” below, Item #1.

Conditions:

1. The applicant is applying for a NJDEP General Permit 24 due to wetlands or transition areas located within the vicinity of the proposed disposal field. Waiver item #7 above is conditional upon the receipt of NJDEP approval and a copy of the approval will be provided by the engineer to East Amwell Township Board of Health prior to issuance of the septic system permit.
2. Confirmation by the engineer that he will change the minimum distance noted of neighboring wells from 100 feet to 200 feet since the property is in the Sourland Mountain District. This shall be shown as #2 on sheet 2 of the “Septic System Alteration Design”.

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to approve the application and waivers as outlined in the County letter and the conditions outlined above, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Preview Committee

Kurylo, Block 25, Lot 1.02, 4 Dutch Lane, Ringoes, NJ, Septic Application

Present was Doug Fine of Fine Engineering, LLC, to discuss replacement of a malfunctioning system to an existing three-bedroom dwelling with no expansion. This design is in full conformance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A. The plans and related documents were previously reviewed by the Preview Committee. Questions asked regarding location and orientation were answered to the satisfaction of the Board.

Motion was made to grant the following waiver requested:

1. The highest regional water table is at 18 inches which is less than the maximum allowed by State Code of 24 inches from existing grade. The design will show that there will be a minimum of 48 inches of separation in the regional water table.
 - The engineer explained he was able to design the system with a 48-inch zone of treatment above the shallowest water table. With the 5:1 grading around the mound, there are no issues with ground water mounding or runoff. The disposal field designed height and width will be adequate.

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to approve the application and waiver as outlined in the County letter was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Preview Committee

Roberto, Block 33, Lot 4.02, 26 Saddle Shop Road, Ringoes, NJ, Septic Application

Present was Doug Fine of Fine Engineering, LLC, to discuss replacement of a malfunctioning system to an existing five-bedroom dwelling with no expansion. Soil logs 5, 6, 8, and 9 with a pit bail test pb-1 conducted in soil log 5 and pb-2 conducted in soil log 6 were completed on January 12, 2023. The proposed system is a pressure dosed, mounded soil replacement installation. This design is in full conformance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A. The plans and related documents were previously reviewed by the Preview Committee. Questions asked regarding location and orientation were answered to the satisfaction of the Board.

Motion was made to grant the following waivers requested based on the limited size and configuration of the lot:

1. The proposed disposal field will be installed in an area where the depth to the limiting zone below the ground surface is less than 24 inches. The regional water table is 16 inches below the ground surface.
 - The engineer explained he used the regional ground water table and provided a 48-inch zone of treatment above the highest modeling at 16 inches and the mound will be 5 feet high.

2. The proposed disposal field is less than 100 feet from an existing water course. The proposed disposal field is approximately 25 feet from the water course.
 - The engineer explained there were many soil logs done on this property and it was tested twice. The initial set of logs were performed in the back of the property and an attempted basin flood test to no avail in August 2022. In January 2023, testing was done again in the back of the property and no ground water was found to perform the test. The front of the property was tested and ground water was not found there either. The only location that was obtained was closer to the water course in soil logs 8 & 9.

3. The proposed disposal field toe of slope is less than 25 feet from the property lines. The toe of slope is approximately 12 feet to the property line of Lot 4.06.
 - The engineer explained that there is no other place to go because of the limits imposed by the well radius and water course. To keep the 5:1 ratio, there is not enough room to increase the setback distance from Lot 4.06 and Lot 4.05 but said the designed distance will be enough.

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to approve the application and waivers as outlined in the County letter was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Resignation of Board Member, Janis Grover

Ms. Grover submitted her resignation to the Township Committee in June 2023. A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, with regrets, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to accept Ms. Grover's resignation and to thank her for her service on the Board, was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Wolfe added that he spoke to the mayor about looking into whether people on the Board of Health who miss an extraordinary number of meetings should be allowed to continue on the Board or should be asked to resign. There are people who are missing a lot of meetings and is not sure why they would want to stay on Board if they are not going to attend meetings. Mr. Wolfe understands that every once in a while, a meeting will be missed but missing 4 of 5 or 5 of 6 meetings without a compelling reason, like a health issue, it's problematic and the mayor is considering how to address that issue. Chair Carluccio informed the members that Ms. Merz has been polling the members before each meeting to make sure we have quorum. Chair Carluccio has reached out to Board members who have not recently been at the meetings to ask if they think they will be able to attend meetings in the future. As answers are received back, Chair Carluccio is relaying that information to the mayor.

Items of Discussion

Education and Health Issues

There were no items for discussion but Chair Carluccio mentioned that an educational article was submitted by the Board to be included in the tax mailing to residents.

Board Secretary's Report

There were no new updates from Ms. Merz.

Open to the Public

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

Chair Carluccio reviewed the correspondence received with the Board. There were no animal bites reported this month, thankfully. The covid reports are consistent with last month, all of the levels are low but there are still deaths occurring in the state every month but not nearly what it was previously.

There was also a Hunterdon County notice of violation received for B11, L29. Ms. Merz provided an update on the violation stating that the property owner brought in a receipt for having the septic tank pumped as instructed per the notice of violation and she emailed the receipt to the County. The property owner is working with an engineer and an application should be submitted soon for a septic alteration.

Chair Carluccio explained that she sent an email thanking Mr. Willey, Planning Board Chairperson, for the letter that was sent by their attorney in response to our request about the

Region 9 housing project. Our Board will be reaching out directly to set up well testing through our normal channels and will pull in Vince Uhl, hydrogeologist for the Board of Health, to help design what the testing will be for that project.

Adjourn

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Amy Jo Merz, Board of Health Secretary