Septic Health Information Task Team

2-10-20 Meeting Notes  (Prepared by S. Bartlett)

Attendees:
Brian Sanford, Amy Lindamood, Jim Nelson, Marie Samaha, Kevin Quinlan, Steve Zalewski,
Bruce Woodruff, Scott Bartlett

Not Present:  Susan Slack, Pat Tarpey, Bill Gassman

Prior Team Meeting Notes:
• Notes from the 1-13-20 meeting were accepted as written.

Items Discussed;
• Comments from Town Attorney Matt Serge dated 2-4-20 on Draft Rev 6 were distributed to the Team prior to the Meeting.

• Attorney Serge’s comments on the proposed ordinance covered 4 items of concern. In summary, absent evidence of a failed system, Matt does not think RSA 147 gives the town basis to require testing and further he does not feel RSA 147:16 gives authority to the health officer to revoke a CO for a septic violation as outlined in Draft 6 of the proposed health ordinance nor does he feel that prior owners can be held liable for failure to comply. He suggested the process become a voluntary effort to reach out to the new owners of properties with septic systems after the sale process has been completed.

• Bruce provided a summary of Matt’s comments and identified those with which he does not agree. Bruce will follow up with Matt and develop a new Draft Rev 7 around a voluntary effort.

• Pat Tarpey also weighed in via an e-mail on 2-10 and suggested that Matt Serge contact the Meredith Town Attorney since their Septic regulation requires Septic system owners to have their systems tested and certified that they are functioning properly.

• Jim Nelson suggested expanded testing in Moultonborough Bay to focus on Phosphorus not Nitrogen and perhaps identify specific scientific evidence of septic problems. Jim, Brian and Marie will explore this option.

• The consensus of the group was that our efforts to monitor the age and functional health of septic systems should be complementary to the emerging work of the NH Shoreland Septic System Study Commission and their recommended legislation expected to be developed in 2020. Attorney Susan S. is asked to provide the Task Team an update on this activity at our next meeting.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, 3-18-20, 1 pm

Agenda Items to be discussed at our next meeting;
1. Review Draft Revision 7 and any further comments received from Attorney Serge. (Bruce W.)
2. Additional Testing in Moultonborough Bay to focus on Phosphorous. (Jim, Brian and Marie)
3. Update on status and work of the NH Shoreland Septic System Study Commission. (Susan S.)
4. Identify next steps for this effort. (Group)
5. Next Meeting Date ____________?

(end)