



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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BERRIEN COUNTY SEWAGE APPEALS BOARD

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
BCHD- Conference Room
2149 E. Napier, Benton Harbor MI

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: **Sewage Appeals Board Members:** Peg Kohring (Berrien County Board of Health), Dr. Gleiber (Great Lakes Scientific), Thaddeus Hackworth (Berrien County Corporate Counsel), Ezra Scott (Berrien County Commissioner), Joseph Taylor (Berrien County Board Of Health).

BCHD: Guy Miller (Acting Health Officer), Candi Gabrielse (Deputy Health Officer), Nick Margaritis (Manager of Environmental Health, BCHD), Brian Murphy (EH Supervisor), Chris Nagy (Registered Sanitarian, EH), Angela Reeves-Price (Program Support Specialist, EH)

GUESTS: Steve Chandler (Builder), Joseph Arnt (Owner), John Nadeau (Nadeau Appraisal Service), John Johnson (Consultant)

10:30 a.m. Meeting called to order by Peg Kohring

Approval of Agenda: Kohring made a motion to approve the agenda; a second was made by Dr.Gleiber. Motion carried.

Approval of 02/02/22 Minutes: Dr.Gleiber made a motion, supported by Ezra Scott, that the minutes of the April 6, 2022 Sewage Appeal be approved. Motion carried.

Introductions:

Those present made introductions, printed name and title.

Kohring: There will be the owner/installer presentation, then the Berrien County Health Department presentation. Board members ask questions from discussion.

Owner/Installer Presentation: John Johnson (Consultant) on behalf of Mr. Arnt (Owner) for 9206 Hagar Shore Rd., Tax I.D. #: 11-21-0012-0010-10-0, Watervliet Twp., Sec. #12.

Johnson: (Summarizes and explains the description of property and construction constraints and parameters to be achieved installing system).

Proposal 1. This system will be located in the backyard of the property. There will be 42' tapers around the system. This will be a pump system with a 500-gallon tank. There is room for a reserve area if a system fails. Drain bed will be 25' away from the foundation of basement. Well location will meet approved isolation distances.

The system will have two, 1000-gallon septic tanks, a 500-gallon dosing tank with pump and visual alarm. Each septic tank will have a baffle with an effluent filter on the second tank. Drainbed will be placed on 4' of sand fill above natural grade. There will be a 7:1 slope for the mound system. Finished height will be 6'. There will be 42' tapers on each side.

Gleiber: Why are there two proposals? Are you asking us to choose?

Johnson: We are asking you to approve one or both. Preferably both so the homeowner can make a decision.

Proposal 2. This system is in the front yard of the property. There will be two 1000-gallon septic tanks. Drainbed will be placed on 4' of sand with a finished mount height of 6'. There will be 42' tapers on each side. This will be a gravity fed system. Effluent filters will be on both septic tanks. Isolation distances will be met.

Berrien County Health Department Presentation:

Margaritis: Due to seasonable high water table and heavy soils, this property did not meet the Health Department code. We rejected property for septic permit. We have done both options Mr. Johnson has proposed on our replacement systems in this county. We have done both options Mr. Johnson has proposed on our replacement systems in Berrien County. Both of the proposed systems fit and meet the isolations distances needed. Reserve

area has been taken into consideration and meets our expectations. Plans look good to us.

Appeal Board Decision:

Taylor: The soil compaction was mentioned. Would a rope or fence be put up?

Johnson: Might be a fence or a yellow line.

Gleiber: Nick you indicated sloping of the land. Are you satisfied with location?

Margaritis: Yes, area of the proposed systems are fairly level.

Scott: You were denied last month for more detailed plans. Health Department did not provide me with their denied plans. We need that information to compare with detailed plans.

We approve a system, and now you are proposing two systems.

Kohring: We have a field review.

Hackworth: We have approved alternative systems before; I don't know if we want to get into the habit of doing that?

One thing noted, there is a tremendous amount of fill needed.

Johnson: 1,000 yards of sand.

Nagy: I notice driveway looks like it is almost on top of the slope from the drawing. Will this be a problem?

Margaritis: No, as long as they do not cut away from the slope. I do not see a problem.

TRIAL RESOLUTION:

Kohring: To approve a septic system for a three-bedroom house. No garbage disposal. Two 1,000-gallon septic tanks, one 500-gallon dosing tank with pump and visual alarm. Effluent filters and baffles on both septic tanks. There will be a 7:1 slope, with a reserve system. This will be subject to field review and approval.

Scott: Is this trial resolution for just proposal 1?

Kohring: Yes

Hackworth: If there is no reason not to approve both systems, I think we can include in the motion either of the two systems subject to field review.

Amended Resolution:

Hackworth: To approve both proposals with field review and approval.

Alternative 1: Two, 1,000-gallon septic tanks and a dosing tank with visual alarm and pump. There will be a 6' finished mound at 7:1 slope with a 60'X15' drainbed.

Alternative 2: Two, 1000-gallon tanks with baffles and effluent filters. This will be a 6' finished mound, 7:1 slope with a 60'X15' drainbed. This will include a reserve area.

Appeal Board Decision:

Dr. Gleiber seconds the motion, motion approved for 9206 Hagar Shore Rd.

11:00 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Submitted by B.Murphy 05/10/2022

Sewage Appeal Guidelines

11:01 a.m. Meeting called to order by Peg Kohring

Hackworth: These guidelines will be Board's "suggestions" what should be submitted for an appeal. We still have the ability to approve system with or without all the suggestions included. The same we have the ability to deny a property as well with the suggested guidelines included.

Appeal Documentation Guidelines (Three basic elements)

1. Soil and site evaluations
2. Dimensional Site plan drawn to scale.
3. Detailed system design with specifications and cross-sections.

Appeal Board Decision:

Scott motions to approve, Dr. Gleiber seconds the motion, motion approved for the Sewage Appeal Guidelines.

11:30 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Submitted by B.Murphy 05/10/2022

