

LUNENBURG BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 1, 2023

The Board of Health met at 7:00 pm at the Ritter Memorial Building

Members Present: George Emond, Perry Jewell, Paul Fortin, Evan Watters and Lisa Normandin

MINUTES APPROVED

April 3, 2023

On motion by Normandin and second by Fortin, the above minutes were approved. All in favor.

11 LONGWOOD ROAD

Rick and Linda Hillson met with the board. Mr. & Mrs. Hillson have had ongoing complaints of fumes coming from their neighbor's oil furnace power vent. The power vent was installed as a part the construction of an addition.

Mr. Hillson called MA DEP and spoke with Michele Delmarre who in turn contacted Agent Jim Garreffi. In May of 2022, Garreffi spoke with Jim Ricci of the Lunenburg Fire Department. Prior to Garreffi's conversation with Ricci, an inspection was done through the fire department and it was noted that there was an odor coming from the oil burner as well as a soot problem visible on the home. At that time, the power vent was replaced and there was no longer a soot problem. Mr. Hillson has sent emails to Jim Garreffi when he noted a problem. Agent Garreffi has responded to those emails by inspecting the property when he is able as well as sitting at the property at times when the burner fires up. He has noted an odor for approximately 3 – 4 minutes but then it disappears. Agent Garreffi has done many inspections but does not believe that the intensity and duration of the odor rises to the level of air pollution.

Agent Garreffi sent a letter to the homeowner asking about the performance and maintenance of the burner and power vent. The owner responded and advised that the both were working properly.

There is approximately 100 feet between the power vent and the Hillson's home.

The Hillson's stated that the owner of the adjoining property also has to close their windows when the burner is running. Mr. Hillson stated that he does not believe that the power vent is installed properly. The Hillson's believe that weather, wind pattern and humidity have an affect on the migration of the fumes.

Mr. Hillson stated that they can't enjoy their property, they can't stay outside, and they can't open their windows. They suffer from physical symptoms such as coughing, burning throat and the fumes flare asthma.

Chairman Emond asked why the air pollution definition cannot be used. Agent Garreffi stated that the there is not a long enough duration to cite the regulation.

Mr. Hillson proposed installing a pipe up above the roof line instead of the power vent to carry the fumes upward. The estimated cost of a double wall chimney would be \$2,000 for approximately 25 feet. He stated that communication with his neighbor is not an open communication right now.

Member Normandin asking if a double walled pipe was installed would that satisfy the Hillsons. They agreed that it would.

Jim Garreffi stated that he would like to see more information as well as more inspections of fumes noted. Chairman Emond asked that the Hillman's keep a detailed log.

After discussion, and on motion by Normandin and second by Watters, this matter was continued until May 15th at 7:00 pm. All in favor.

Having no further matters before the board and on motion by Normandin and seconded by Fortin, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm, all in favor.