
MEETING MINUTES Approved 8-27-19
Tompkins County Board of Health
Executive Committee
July 18, 2019
4:35 PM

Board of Health Members Present:

Christina Moylan, PhD, President
David Evelyn, MD, MPH, Vice-President
Melissa Dhundale, MD

Tompkins County Public Health Department Staff:

Scott Freyburger, Public Health Engineer, participated via conference call
Shelley Comisi, Administrative Assistant

Agenda: Inn at Taughannock Holding Tank Waiver Request, 2030 Gorge Road, T-Ulysses

Per Board of Health Bylaws and at the request of Public Health Director Frank Kruppa, Dr. Moylan convened an Executive Committee meeting at 4:35 p.m. in the Conference Board Room at the Mental Health Department, 201 East Green Street, Ithaca, to act on an urgent matter.

Scott Freyburger participated via conference call. He explained the owner of the inn/restaurant plans to hold catered, special events on a massive patio located on the property. To provide restroom facilities, the owner wants to place a high-end portable bathroom facility next to a permanent, concrete holding tank. One advantage of the holding tank is not having to pump it every day. The Tompkins County Sanitary Code precludes permanent holding tanks so the owner is requesting a waiver. As stated in the memo (attached), Environmental Health (EH) supports the waiver request. In addition, EH has the capability to track holding tanks and the tank will have alarms when it is getting full.

Mr. Freyburger answered questions from Board members:

- The holding tank will be in the ground.
- EH is not concerned that the holding tank will be used year-round because EH staff will be inspecting the Inn's facility throughout the year.
- Sewage systems can fail and affect neighboring properties and/or water bodies; however, the holding tank is a controlled process. EH staff believes the owner will be watching it closely.
- The Inn will have to renew the permit annually.
- EH staff will conduct required inspections.
- Unlike the privately-owned lake properties that have holding tanks, the Inn is a regulated facility.

It was noted the BOH granted a similar waiver to Comstock summer camp. When asked about setting a precedent, Mr. Freyburger mentioned it will to some degree; however, the Inn has a unique situation and the event center is a temporary structure that will have limited, seasonal use.

Action: Dr. Evelyn moved to approve the Inn at Taughannock's holding tank waiver request; seconded by Dr. Dhundale. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.