



# TOWN OF NORWELL

## Health Department

345 MAIN STREET

NORWELL, MA 02061

TELEPHONE: (781) 659-8016 FAX: (781) 659-2805

November 3, 2021

Ms. Louis Barbour, Chair  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
345 Main Street  
Norwell, MA 02061

### **Re: 15 High Street, Comprehensive Permit Application, Waiver Requests**

Dear Ms. Barbour,

The proposed 15 High Street will consist of 10 free standing buildings, containing 56 apartments units with varying bedrooms per unit, resulting in 90 bedrooms. This will result in a Title 5 flow of 9,900 gallons per day. This is below the 10,000 gallons per day that would require a groundwater discharge permit from MassDEP and therefore will be overseen by the Norwell Board of Health (BOH) during design, construction and long-term operation under Title 5 the State Sanitary Code.

The applicant has requested three waivers from the additional Title 5 regulations promulgated by the Norwell Board of Health under our Rules and Regulations Part 2. Sanitary Disposal of Sewage (1/1/2004). The rules with waiver requests and a BOH response are as follows:

#### **Regulation 3. High Groundwater Elevation Determination**

Observation of actual high-water table shall be made in March or April or as approved by the Board of Health and DEP. Evidence of soil mottling will be the controlling factor in determining high groundwater even during high groundwater season.

*Response:* Based on the test pits witnessed by the BOH no soil mottling was observed. The test pits were not performed in March and April and no groundwater was observed. Therefore, high groundwater would be established under Title 5 and BOH regulations using the "Frimpter" method. This method is used in Norwell even when test pits are performed in March and April if no soil mottles are observed. It is the BOH opinion that this regulation has no impact on the project and does not really need a waiver.

#### **Regulation 8. Nitrogen Sensitive District**

Due to the number of on-site private water supplies both in and outside the aquifer protection district and other areas designated as nitrogen sensitive and based on the fact that a large portion of the town lies within the watershed to the North River:

For the purposes of septic system design, the entire town will be considered nitrogen sensitive for new construction as defined and described in 310 CMR 15.214 through 15.217.

*Response:* The primary purpose of this regulation is to protect private drinking water wells that are significantly present in an area and located outside a DEP nitrogen sensitive area. The BOH has allowed limited site-specific variance to this regulation when there is adequate ability to connect to town water. In areas inside the Aquifer Protection District, we have required some level of Title 5 innovative treatment in granting variance. The most recent variance to this regulation with no treatment was to Cheever Tavern.

**Regulation 13. Pump systems**

All septic systems that require a pump must be pressure dosed.

*Response:* The BOH has granted this requirement in the past based on the design of the proposed system or its location. To date a final design has not been submitted.

As reported in the email to the ZBA in August, no plans have yet been submitted for the sanitary sewage system, therefore there is little else for the BOH to comment on.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Dillon". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "P" and "D".

Peter Dillon PG  
Board of Health, Member