



# TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT  
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## TOWN OF EDGARTOWN BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

#### **WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman  
Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner

#### **WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**

Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

#### **EWWD STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. David Thompson, Facilities Manager  
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Sue Carroll  
Ms. Maggie B. Morrison  
Mr. Robert D. "Robbie" Morrison  
Mr. Walter A. "Alex" Morrison, Jr.

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown scheduled a Special Meeting for Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Edgartown Waste Water Treatment Facility, located at 330 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order. Also present from the Board was Waste Water Commissioner Scott Ellis.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **DISCUSSION: REQUEST FROM ALEX MORRISON FOR EXEMPTION FROM BEDROOM REGULATION AT 11 BERNARD WAY.**

The Board considered the request from Walter A. "Alex" Morrison, Jr. for his property – 11 Bernard Way, Map 20C, Lot 102 – to be exempt from the *Town of Edgartown Waste Water*

*Department Bedroom Regulation* (as revised on September 21, 2009), so that he might add a fifth bedroom to the four already existing.

Alex Morrison testified that he was looking for a place to live for his brother, Edgartown Deputy Shellfish Warden Robert D. "Robbie" Morrison. With a four-bedroom apartment upstairs in the structure and Alex's business office downstairs, it would be a matter of adding a kitchenette, bedroom and bathroom on the first floor to create living quarters for his brother, who was single. The house was already, he said, on Town sewer; plus unlike some owners he was a responsible landlord who would never allow an excessive number of tenants to occupy his property.

Facilities Manager David Thompson expressed concerns about how to implement the exemption, that is, once granted, how to "ungrant" it when Mr. Morrison's brother no longer needed the extra bedroom. Sue Carroll, who works in the office on the first floor, noted that at the present time parts of the office were spread out around that floor. After Robbie left, she said, the office could spread back out.

Ms. Carroll continued, "I know you have to abide by rules and restrictions... He's a Town employee, he's a *good* Town employee... He's doing what he loves to do." She added that Robbie Morrison had "a hefty savings account," so he would not be renting forever. "And he's my son," she said.

Robbie Morrison stated that as a Shellfish Department employee, he understood well the environmental concerns of the Waste Water Department, as well as the scientific basis of the Bedroom Regulation. "I understand you don't take this lightly," he said. Maggie B. Morrison, wife of Alex Morrison, also spoke in favor of the exemption.

Alex Morrison sketched out his plans for the first floor, and Admin Assistant Pia Webster noted that this would increase the number of OTDs from 10 to 14. Mr. Thompson said that the pump onsite had sufficient capacity for the additional drains; so this was not a factor. What was, though, was this: "If they have a toilet, sink and bath, then it's a bedroom." Another factor was the "reasonable expectation of privacy," something that was assured by the separate entrance. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Thompson stated, "I'm really okay with this." His issue, he said, was "the next person that comes down the line." He then made a request: "We ask you kindly, when Rob finds his way out into the big world, to seriously consider someone else that is in Rob's boat for that space." Mrs. Webster recommended that when Alex Morrison got a new tenant, he come back before the Board.

Commissioner Ellis stressed that the Bedroom Regulation allowed exemptions to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Chairman Searle emphasized the benefit to the Town of Edgartown afforded by the provision of housing to one of its employees.

Commissioner Ellis then made a motion to approve Walter A. Morrison, Jr.'s request that 11 Bernard Way (Map 20C, Lot 102) be exempt from the *Town of Edgartown Waste Water Department Bedroom Regulation* insofar as being allowed to add a fifth bedroom to the structure on the property. Chairman Searle provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Thompson explained to Alex Morrison that his next step was to return to the Waste Water Department Office to fill out a permit application.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

The Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2016** *[Revised]*. Admin Assistant Webster explained that in their initial iteration, she had forgotten on page 1 the line "Mr. Jason Araujo, Owner, Jay's Septic Service" under "Others Present." The only amendments to these minutes, then, were: (a) the addition of that line; (b) the insertion on page 1 of the line "*[Revised]*" under "Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2016"; and (c) the elimination of some white space at the top of page 1 to preserve the sentence arrangement and content of the earlier version of that page. There being no comments or other amendments offered, Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Chairman Searle. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Searle asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting, which Commissioner Ellis provided. Chairman Searle offered a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The Special Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster  
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

  
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Glen S. Searle, Chairman

  
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Scott Ellis, Commissioner