

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Memorandum

TO: Jim Butler, Building Official

FROM: Charles I. Motes, Jr., M.S., M.P.H., R.S.

Cc: John Weichsel, Town Manager
David Lavallee, Acting Town Planner
Frank Vinci, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Date: January 12, 2007

RE: Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems and Sheds

The Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems were revised effective January 1, 2007. A revision was made to the definition of an accessory structure as follows:

Accessory structure means a permanent non-habitable structure which is not served by a water supply and is used incidental to residential or non-residential buildings. Accessory structures include, but are not limited to, attached and detached garages, covered entryways, screened and enclosed 3-season (non-winterized) porches/sunrooms, open decks, tool and lawn equipment storage sheds, gazebos, barns, etc. Small (<200 square feet), portable structures such as sheds without permanent support foundations (concrete slab, piers, footings) are not considered permanent structures. Decks are permanent structures.

This definition exempts small non-habitable structures that are less than 200 square feet in size and are without a permanent support foundation from the required minimum separation distances to subsurface sewage disposal systems (septic systems). This exemption obviates the need for Health Department review of Building Department permit applications for these types of structures. Effective immediately, any Building permit application for a portable structure or shed less than two hundred (200) square feet in size without a permanent support foundation, as described above, will not require review by the Health Department for those properties served by a subsurface sewage disposal system (septic system) and/or private water supply well.

Although these applications will not require review by the Health Department, please advise the applicants not to locate the structure in an area that will obstruct access to or have a detrimental effect upon the septic tank and/or water supply well.

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