

# AQUIDNECK LIGHT

P.O. Box 896 • Portsmouth, RI 02871

December 7, 2021

*Submitted via e-mail to: Town Council via Town Clerk's Office.*

To the Honorable Town Council of Portsmouth (serving as Building Code Board of Appeals):

Aquidneck Light has constructed a 576 square foot building at 3055 East Main Road to contain electrical equipment. The building permit categorized the structure as an "Equipment Room".

Flexibility regarding the site was built into the engineering drawings, and implemented during construction. Principe Engineering added an on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) design to the site development plan, which was approved during the Town Boards of Review earlier this year. F.M. Properties oversaw the installation of rough-in plumbing (under the concrete slab).

For comparison purposes, Portsmouth Water and Fire District (PWFD)'s new pumping station at 889 Union Street<sup>1</sup> built in 2019 has an area of 1,475 square feet and does not have a septic system or any sanitary facilities. The old pumping station built in 1980 has a cesspool and a comfort room, which was not used for decades. PWFD was allowed to forgo a septic system at the new pumping station, as PWFD has sanitary facilities nearby at PWFD's main office at 1944 East Main Road.

Aquidneck Light formally requests clarification from the Building Code Board of Appeals whether installing a lavatory and OWTS is truly necessary for the structure at 3055 East Main Road as:

- A precedent exists in Portsmouth for not requiring a lavatory and OWTS for public utility use buildings,
- Aquidneck Light's electronics will be remotely provisioned and monitored, and
- Multiple managing members of Aquidneck Light reside in Portsmouth.

Respectfully,



Theodore Pietz, Principal

Enclosures: "Building Permit 21-155B (revised Section E checkbox 21)\_12JUL2021.pdf"  
"3055 East Main Road (Equipment Room)\_20NOV2021.png"  
"Site Development Plan - Project LD 2020-19 - 21 HILLSIDE ROAD\_PORTSMOUTH\_COMBINED (Principe)\_23DEC2020.pdf"  
"[Aquidneck Light] 3055 East Main Road (Plat 29 - Lot 113B) OWTS - Asciola\_10MAY2021.pdf"

<sup>1</sup> <http://gis.vgsi.com/portsmouthri/Parcel.aspx?pid=149936>