

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
Approved: September 25, 2018

BoH Members present: Libby Levison, Chair via Skype; Sharon McCarthy, Acting Chair; Tom Philippou.

Attending: Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health ("NABH"); Alison Flynn, Board of Health ("BoH") Clerk; Eric Broadbent representing the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Sub- Committee.

Ms. McCarthy called meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT -None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Update from Transfer Station Committee - Mr. Philippou reported that the consensus from the Town Administration is that there should be a town wide single price for dump stickers. A further concern within Town Hall is the volume of work related to the sale of stickers with all coming due in June. Rolling the cost of the dump sticker into the tax bill was also discussed. The Assistant Town Administrator requested additional cost information. MA Department of Environmental Protection is launching a new web site, "Recycle Smart"/" this month. Mr. Kilhart, Director of the Public Works Department, has prepared a proposal to CPIC to request funds to help with the cost of a new compactor.

b. Update from Conservation Commission on Deer Management subcommittee-Ms. Levison was contacted by Conservation Committee to join a subcommittee on deer management. BOH will not be a required member, but Conservation Committee agreed to keep BoH copied on all emails. Controlling the deer population is not the purview of the BOH. After discussion, Board agreed to attend the Deer Management subcommittee meetings as needed. Mr. Philippou volunteered to be the BoH point person on this issue.

c. Designation of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Steering Committee member

Eric Broadbent of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Sub-Committee gave a short presentation on the program and that the first task for the group is to choose a consultant to help formulate the MVP resiliency workshops: a 1 day workshop for the entire community and a half day workshop for the agricultural community. All workshops must be completed by June 30, 2019.

Six consultants have submitted proposals. Mr. Broadbent requested a BOH member join the sub-committee. Due to scheduling, the BOH decided this would be a rotating responsibility..

d. Discussion of application for geothermal wells at 298 Old Littleton Road

Mr. Grossman presented his concern with the location of the geothermal wells and the access of the drill rig to that location, based on the drawings available. Currently, Harvard regulations require drinking water wells be 100ft from septic systems. Making a new offset for geothermal wells was discussed. Mr. Grossman suggested 50ft. Ms. McCarthy suggested we reply to applicant and say the Board is moving towards new regulations, with offsets of 50 feet. Mr. Grossman was asked to contact the homeowner.

e. Review MAHB sample marijuana regulation -Tabled until next meeting.

f. Discussion regarding when to post arbovirus surveillance reports to the webpage – Text suggested, “The BoH received an announcement that a positive test in a mosquito for X in a neighboring town on DATE. Please see the Mosquito link here for further information on protection.” Notice would stay on webpage for two weeks, unless further positive tests were reported.

g. Consideration of adding “Be Well Informed” tool to the BOH website- it was agreed to add this information to the webpage and have the Clerk send an e-mail to those registered to receive updates.

h. Review other local Towns’ regulations on vaping – Discussion of how Harvard’s tobacco regulations apply to vaping. Mr. Grossman indicated that our regulations cover the sale of vaping products as well as tobacco but do not cover the use of vaping products. He recommended incorporating such text into our regulations.

Ms. McCarthy agreed to share MAHB draft school smoking policy with School system.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion that we include Section 4 of the Westford tobacco regulations (not sure of correct title) and to review our definition of e-cigarettes and related e-products. Vote unanimous.

Ms. McCarthy will draft update to our existing regulations.

i. Volunteers for upcoming recycling events –

No board members are available to staff the hazardous waste disposal event at Devens on September 1, 2018. Ms. Flynn was asked to inform Mr. Kilhart.

Recycle Your Reusables is on October 20, 2018. The organization needs a donation from the BOH, volunteers, and help advertising the event. Ms. McCarthy agreed to post the event on NextDoor as the date approaches and to reach out to environmental activists in Harvard. Clerk to add notice to BOH website. Ms. Levison to send notice of event to Mr. Broadbent.

j. Update from Health Agent & BoH Clerk

- 28 Deerfoot Trail compliance date for cleanup coming up at end of August.
- Craftsman Village. No update.

4. Old Business

a. Continued discussion of synthetic turf, environmental and health impacts. Mr. Philippou made a motion to adopt a moratorium on the building of synthetic turf playing fields until a bylaw is created and adopted by Town Meeting that adequately protects public health. Ms. McCarthy seconded; vote unanimous.

b. Status of Lovers Lane – Mr. Grossman reported that there has been no change in the condition of the property and recommended that the Board pursue condemnation and secure access. Mr. Philippou moved to begin the condemnation process based on photographic evidence presented by Mr. Grossman, and secure the structure against egress. Ms. Levison seconded; vote unanimous.

c. Status of trash hauler compliance – discussed recommendations from Irene Congdon. Tabled further discussion until next meeting.

d. Drought monitoring – Harvard is no longer in drought. Discussion tabled.

e. Further discussion regarding revisions to well regulations- revisions were reviewed. Mr. Grossman agreed to incorporate revisions and produce another draft for the next meeting.

f. Continued discussion regarding scheduling of EDS drill- to be held on October 17, 2018 from 2-3pm and the flu clinic will be held from 3-5pm.

g. Continued follow-up from Tick Talk- Ms. Levison reported that HES is interested in a tick talk for a school presentation. Ms. Levison will forward more information to her contact at HES. Mr. Philippou suggested the Board create cards for sending the tick to Tick Report Laboratory at UMass Amherst for HES. Day long symposium on ticks held at UMass Amherst is on November 19, 2018. All should preregister.

h. Confirm timing of the August 28th meeting to be at 2pm.

i. Review action points from last meeting- Done

5. Permits

- Stable: 199 Still River Rd. 4 horses, Mitrano dumpster near barn. Ms. Levison moved to approve the permit; Mr. Philippou seconded. Vote unanimous.
- No septic permits

6. Approval of minutes 7/24/18-Tabled

7. Topics for next meeting agenda- Discussed.

Mr. Philippou moved to adjourn at 4:57; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon McCarthy and
Libby Levison

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Worcester Telegram Article, "Tick talk: Youngsters in Worcester get words of warning". PJ Owen, July 19, 2018.
- [www.synturf.org's](http://www.synturf.org) listing of moratoriums: <http://www.synturf.org/moratoriums.html>
- New England Center for Investigative Services article, "Toxic turf? Momentum grows against synthetic turf". J McKim, May 10, 2015.