

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Approved: May 26, 2020

Board of Health Members present: Sharon McCarthy; Tom Philippou, Chair; Libby Levison.

Attending: Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BOH”) Clerk; Joan Eliyesil & Marty Green (arriving at 7:35 p.m.), The Harvard Press.

Mr. Philippou called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the BOH Remote Meeting Preamble, including Confirmation of Member Access, the Introduction to Remote Meeting, and Meeting Business Ground Rules.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ms. Eliyesil asked to reserve questions until later in the meeting; Mr. Philippou agreed. Ms. Eliyesil later asked Mr. Grossman whether the beaches will open on 5/25/20; Mr. Grossman said this is still to be determined. Ms. Eliyesil asked Mr. Grossman whether it is known if COVID-19 can survive in fresh water; he stated he has not seen any data on this. Mr. Grossman also answered that he is unaware of the cause of the increase in positive test results at the Federal prison at Devens; he agreed to ask the public health nurses before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Craftsman Village Harvard: Review 4/30/20 Response to Request for Information and Soils Report- Mr. Grossman indicated that after initial review of the report that was received from Craftsman Village Harvard (CVH) outlining how they plan to address the soils contaminated with arsenic, lead, and dieldrin, he and Ms. McCarthy noted some insufficiencies. Mr. Grossman indicated that the report suggests where CVH is suggesting the stripping will be done of the top few to 18 inches and then relocated with a cover material placed on top, but doesn't specify whether it will include a protective barrier or whether it will be above the water table. Mr. Grossman indicated that the BOH may want to request the contaminated dirt not be placed in the wetland buffer zone or in the living areas, and suggested the BOH prepare comments with the Conservation Commission before a meeting with CVH. Ms. Levison asked whether Mr. Grossman would consider sharing the report with the Ayer Conservation Commission since the project borders Ayer; Mr. Grossman stated it would not be something he would consider doing. Mr. Grossman suggested that a notice to homeowners that you cannot dig or plant in the area, and the use of a barrier is pretty common. The BOH members agreed that a meeting with ConCom is needed; Mr. Grossman and Ms. Flynn will work with Ms. Allard to see how this can be best coordinated.

b. Discussion regarding possible recommendations for Annual Town Meeting- Ms. Levison stated that she requested this discussion in response to learning of the Massachusetts

Association of Health Boards (MAHB) guidance for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and of her awareness from Emergency Management Team (EMT) meetings that plans for ATM by Town Administration are already underway. The BOH members discussed that the MAHB guidance indicates that the ATM procedures are a joint decision between the Select Board (SB), Moderator, and BOH. Ms. Levison asked the members consider what the risk is to hold Town Meeting and what safety measures should be in place. Ms. McCarthy noted that a bill has been passed by the Senate that is on its way to the House Means and Ways Committee that will address Town Meeting in different formats. Ms. Levison advised that she and Mr. Grossman requested a joint meeting between the Moderator, SB, and BOH at the last EMT meeting. Mr. Philippou suggested a first step should be to poll the residents to see if a quorum is expected. Mr. Grossman stated that Mr. Bragan indicated that while Fruitlands was considered as an outside location, it has been ruled out, and he believes the Boxborough Regency is now being considered as a location. Mr. Grossman also stated that the MAHB guidance document states that the first step is for a discussion with the moderator in which the BOH can provide some guidelines. Mr. Philippou stated that while June would be a good time to hold an outdoor event, the ATM should be postponed if the concerns cannot be resolved in time. He further suggested that Reverse 911 could be used to ask residents to respond to an online poll or call Town Hall.

Ms. Levison asked the BOH to consider the public health minimums that they would like to request for ATM. Mr. Grossman suggested safe distancing, keeping distance from the microphone, sanitizing the microphone if it needs to be touched, adequate bathrooms with methods for keeping them clean, requiring masks and having a small supply of masks available for those who come without their own, a method for remote participation for residents who are positive or have some other medical condition that prevents them from joining the group. Ms. McCarthy suggested residents bring index cards with their own name & address clearly printed to assist in check-in. Mr. Philippou suggested residents complete a simple questionnaire about their current symptoms, and temperature checks be implemented at check in. Mr. Grossman noted it may be difficult to obtain contactless or disposable thermometers at this time. Ms. McCarthy suggested that one of the conditions for ATM be that adequate supplies are procured in advance. Ms. Levison suggested the ambulance service may be able to assist with contactless thermometers/temperature checks. Mr. Grossman stated that as Mr. Bragan and Ms. Sobalvarro are well into their planning process, they might already have answers to many of these concerns.

Mr. Grossman noted that the question of quorum will be dependent on individual risk thresholds. Mr. Philippou stated that they might inadvertently exclude a particular representative group if those members' risk level threshold is lower. Mr. Philippou indicated that he would attend ATM; Ms. McCarthy stated that recent research she's heard about possible submicron virus particles would make her think long and hard about whether she wants to attend. Ms. Levison indicated that her high risk level threshold prompted her to seek the opinions of the other BOH members. Ms. Levison indicated she is inclined to want to postpone ATM; Ms. McCarthy agreed.

Mr. Philippou offered to write the SB in the next 1-2 days to request a convening of the three parties; Ms. McCarthy asked him to include a mention of the Senate bill. Ms. Levison asked

that the letter note that the BOH is aware that they've done a lot of work and the BOH would like to talk about what has already been done and to share some concerns.

c. Update from the Emergency Management Team- Ms. Levison reported that the track will open on May 25th with playground equipment roped off and swings taken down. She indicated that she shared a helpful PowerPoint presentation which describes what recreational activities can open and when during the different phases. She also explained that Prospect Hill Overlook is opening again with the barricades pressed against the wall in case they need to be moved back in to place. Ms. Levison stated that Ms. Doucet added a new COVID-19 tab to the homepage, and Ms. Sobalvarro is researching whether the "Essential Services" childcare is available for Town Hall staff. Mr. Grossman noted that he is meeting with the beaches again tomorrow. Ms. Levison stated that there will be a car parade for the high school seniors through Town.

d. Clerk and Health Agent Update-

- Ms. Flynn asked the Board to consider a request by the homeowner's attorney for approval of a deed notification regarding water quality for radon, gross alpha, and uranium for 3 Blanchard Road. Mr. Grossman indicated that maximum limit numbers in Item 3 should be amended and agreed to also include the numbers that the results came down to with remediation. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to accept the deed restriction for 3 Blanchard Rd. as amended. Ms. Levison asked Mr. Grossman to double-check whether PFAS testing was performed, and said she would second with that request in mind. All were in favor by roll call vote. The BOH members agreed that an electronic or signature by Mr. Grossman was authorized.
- Ms. Flynn advised that she received an e-mailed complaint from a resident concerned about her observed lack of COVID-19 safety precautions in place at the Post Office. Mr. Grossman reported that he visited the Post Office, observed the operations, and spoke with a staff member who was wearing a mask. He also provided that staff member with the standard operating guidelines and self-reporting checklist for COVID-19 precautions. Mr. Grossman indicated that he observed they have signs up, hand sanitizer in place, and a plexi-glass shield that allows both parties to be shielded but also for large packages to be passed through a space. He indicated that the employees were wearing masks and were aware of the guidelines. Ms. Flynn updated the resident via e-mail after Mr. Grossman's visit.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued discussion regarding COVID-19 response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's COVID-19 Orders, including but not limited to preparation of a Community Resources reference sheet, discussion re status of the track and approval of a revised notice regarding contact tracing- The BOH members reviewed two draft revised notices regarding contact tracing and agreed on one to be posted to the BOH website, on Next Door Harvard, sent to the Bowers Brook and Foxglove Apartments Managers for distribution to residents, and to COA Director, Debbie Thompson. Ms. Levison stated that the DPH call today indicated local boards of health which note unauthorized openings of businesses during Phase

1 can report these to the Department of Labor Standards and DPH for follow-up assistance. Ms. Flynn asked if the preparation of a Community Resources document can come off the agenda; the BOH members agreed as there has been no demand for such a document.

b. Continued discussion regarding frequency of meetings- Mr. Philippou stated he believes there is still a need for weekly meetings, with ATM looming; Ms. McCarthy agreed. Ms. Levison suggested that the BOH maintain the goal to skip a meeting when next possible.

c. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed.

PERMITS-

- Stable

The BOH members reviewed a stable permit application for 78 West Bare Hill Road. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The BOH members reviewed a stable permit application for 44 Littleton County Road. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES- The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft minutes of 5/12/20. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve the 5/12/20 minutes as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA- Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. McCarthy made the motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.; Ms. Levison seconded. All members were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 5/12/20
- Craftsman Village Harvard 4/30/20 Response to Request for Information & Soils Report
- Proposed revised BOH notice re contact tracing drafted by Ms. McCarthy
- Proposed revised BOH notice re contact tracing drafted by Ms. Levison
- 44 Littleton County Rd.: 2020, 2019, and 2018 Stable Permit Application
- 78 West Bare Hill Rd.: 2020 Stable Permit Application, and 2019 stable layout plan