

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2020
Approved: June 9, 2020

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

Attending (including but not limited to): Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BOH”) Clerk; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

Mr. Philippou called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, and then began the video recording.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ms. Eliyesil asked to reserve questions until later in the meeting; Mr. Philippou agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Update from the Emergency Management Team- Ms. Levison reported that Mr. Bragan is measuring to the field where Bromfield graduation takes place help assess whether it can be considered as a possible outdoor location ATM.

Ms. Levison also indicated that there have been numerous complaints from neighbors about the large number of people congregating at Prospect Hill Overlook, which include Harvard residents, and individuals leaving trash, tossing a football in the middle of the road, and playing loud music. Ms. Levison advised that Chief Denmark is looking for solutions, and has considered closing the road to parking for 30 days but is delaying that measure because he does not want to add stressors during the current climate. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she thinks this is a reasonable idea and 30 days would be an appropriate amount of time. Ms. Levison suggested that the number of people at the Overlook has increased from other years and that it has become a destination for gathering. Mr. Philippou suggested that a 1st step is to post a sign advising people that their activities are becoming a nuisance to neighbors and if guidelines are not followed, the road will be closed to parking. Ms. Levison noted that the police have handed out orders, instructed people not social distancing to wear masks, and warned against congregating in groups of 10 or more for the past two months. Mr. Philippou noted that throwing a ball back-and-forth is a clear violation. Mr. Grossman indicated that he would pass on the BOH’s thoughts to the Police Chief at Thursday’s EMT meeting.

Ms. Levison and Mr. Grossman advised the BOH members that the procedures for visiting Town Hall have been amended to require appointments for all visitors.

b. Clerk and Health Agent Update-

- Ms. Flynn reported that a MA DPH EEE Planning telephone conference is scheduled for June 10th at 3pm. Ms. McCarthy volunteered to listen in to the call.
- Ms. Flynn indicated that a second e-mail was received from MA DPH advising how to address stagnant water in buildings. Ms. Levison advised that she forwarded the prior guidance to Dr. Dwight, Mary Wilson, Mr. Bragan, and FiveSparks.
- Ms. Levison asked if Mr. Ryan's recommendation to the Town Administrator regarding budget cuts applied to BOH accounts. Ms. Flynn and Mr. Philippou confirmed that Mr. Ryan's recommendations referenced the Land Use Boards' office supplies and purchased services accounts which are separate from those of the BOH.
- Mr. Grossman reported that NABH learned that the regional boards of health will not be receiving money from the State to help cover the costs of COVID-19 contact tracing, leaving a huge shortfall. Mr. Grossman advised that Mr. Garreffo would be producing a letter to member BOHs tomorrow requesting each seek CARES Act funds from their Town Managers & Finance Departments to assist in coverage of the nurses who have been costing NABH approximately \$6,000 per week. Mr. Grossman indicated the Towns' requested contributions are expected to be a 50% increase on whatever the town pays for nursing. The Board agreed to support this request and present it to the Town Administrator. Mr. Grossman will reach out to Chief Sicard to see if this request can be included in the CARES Act submission.
- Mr. Grossman reported that there is no indication that Phase 2 is officially beginning on June 6th. He also stated guidelines for camps and restaurants came out, and confirmed that yard sales and estate sales are for curbside pickup only. The members discussed whether a friendly-reminder regarding such sales should be posted to NextDoor or the BOH website; Ms. Levison will prepare a draft notice for circulation to the BOH members by Ms. Flynn.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued discussion regarding COVID-19 response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's COVID-19 Orders- Ms. McCarthy reported that the guidelines on camps are so restrictive that many will likely not be able to operate. She stated such restrictions include 10 campers to 2 counselors ratios, overall camp occupancy restriction to the occupancy of the shelter used in the event of thunderstorm, and questionable use of bus transportation.

Ms. McCarthy reported that the restaurant guidelines were discussed on the DPH call today. Mr. Grossman indicated that it was stated that use of a cover for outdoor seating, but that cover cannot include side coverage on more than 50% of the perimeter. Mr. Grossman also explained that whether alcohol can be served is governed by the Alcohol & Beverage Commission, as well as the Select Board, and whether outdoor service is allowed is governed by the Select Board. Mr. Grossman said that restaurant seating can be expanded into parking lots if they receive SB approval, but the approved seating capacity is governed by the Federal Food Code and the BOH. Ms. Levison relayed that an approval process needs to be defined with the SB. Ms. Flynn will prepare for the next meeting bullet points regarding these items to be discussed with the SB. Mr. Grossman indicated that he has already had initial conversations with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Bragan about these items. Mr. Grossman also reported that Ms. Braley had a conversation

with Sorrento's about outdoor tables seen on May 31, noting Phase 2 has not yet begun and that the tables should be adequately spaced. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Grossman confirmed that the DPH clarified the nearest seated patron at one table needs to be 6 feet from the nearest seated patron at another table.

Mr. Philippou reported that he invited Chief Denmark to speak to the BOH tonight regarding the BOH's role during protests. Mr. Philippou indicated the President of Chief of MA Police Association advised on Monday's DPH call that while BOH are charged with enforcement under governor's COVID-19 Orders, he recommended the BOH does not aggravate the situation by trying to enforce social distancing and masks during protests. Ms. Levison noted that while there have been some good downward trends in the data, the protest may result in an uptick in cases in 1.5- 3 weeks.

b. Continued discussion regarding recommendations for Annual Town Meeting- Mr. Philippou noted that a Harvard Press poll showed the 84 respondents preferred that it be postponed, but that if it is held on June 20, it be held outside. He further stated that only 11+% stated they would attend the ATM on the 20th if it was held indoors. Mr. Philippou suggested that the results indicate that the Town should hold another poll to ensure a quorum will be present before committing to additional costs. The members stated that they reviewed prior to the meeting Mr. Bragan's document listing locations considered. Ms. Levison stated that she learned that 180 of the 312 attendees at last year's meeting were 60 years old or older. The BOH members agreed that holding the ATM outdoors is the best option considering health and ensuring enough attendees. Ms. Levison briefly summarized the results of the Harvard Press's survey of the plans of 14 other towns for ATM.

c. Review Action Items- Action items were not reviewed.

PERMITS- Permit applications were not reviewed.

MINUTES- The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft minutes of 5/26/20. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve the 5/26/20 minutes as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA- Items for the next agenda were discussed. Mr. Grossman suggested requesting an e-mailed update from the homeowner of 23 Lovers Lane instead of requiring Zoom attendance. Ms. Levison suggested giving her the option; the members were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. Levison made the motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All members were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 5/26/20