

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 2020
Approved: December 14, 2020

Board of Health Members present: Sharon McCarthy, Chair; Chris Mitchell; Libby Levison.

Attending: Alison Flynn, Clerk, Harvard Board of Health (“BOH”); Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the Remote Meeting Preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ms. Eliyesil asked to reserve her questions until the discussion regarding PFAS; Ms. McCarthy agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of the request of Skillings & Sons, Inc., for approval to collect water samples to test quality in connection with home sales- The BOH members considered the request of Skillings & Sons, Inc. (“Skillings”) to be included as an approved sampler as described in the Private Wells regulation. Ms. Flynn advised that Mr. Grossman encouraged Skillings to apply for approval. Mr. Mitchell questioned the process for approving samplers and suggested a future meeting include the preparation of best practices for samplers, including those sampling for PFAS. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the request of Skillings for six months with a discussion thereafter to consider how the approval period has gone; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

b. Update from Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting (11/15/20)- Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison provided an update from the RAB Meeting, including that they believe they are working in the right direction, that they are in the process of changing vendors, and that the responsibility of the BOH will be to continue to follow developments and ask the questions that apply to Harvard. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison stated that there was not any additional information about sediment testing reported, and that sampling is still being performed on Cold Spring Brook. Ms. Levison advised that the next meeting is scheduled in February.

c. Update re PFAS testing of municipal wells- The members discussed the PFAS test results for the municipal wells (Wells #2 and #5), and the role of the BOH in interpreting these results. Ms. Levison suggested that the BOH request notification if any well has to be taken offline. Ms. Eliyesil asked the BOH whether Mr. Kilhart or whoever sampled the wells most recently, has been trained on sampling for PFAS; the BOH Members did not know the answer to this question but stated that Mr. Kilhart is a licensed municipal water supply operator. The members questioned why a positive result was received at this time. Ms. McCarthy advised Ms. Eliyesil that the municipal well would not draw from the same aquifers as private wells in the area. Mr. Mitchell indicated that while there is not an aquifer map available for Harvard, he will try to obtain a copy of the state map showing likely fractures. Mr. Mitchell volunteered to contact Mr. Kilhart with the BOH’s questions regarding the PFAS sampling and monitoring of the municipal wells.

d. Review & revise draft FY22 budget (due 12/1/20)- the members reviewed the draft budget spreadsheet for FY22 and agreed to the proposed budget request. Ms. Levison will provide a draft narrative for review and comment prior to the next meeting.

e. Review FY21 budget- the members considered the current budget and proposed expenses of purchase of a secchi disk, a stable permit reminder insert in the next tax bill, and the required annual townwide mailing in support of the waste hauler regulation. The members reviewed and revised the stable permit insert approved in December 2017. Ms. McCarthy will write Ms. Von Loesecke to request its consideration at the next Select Board meeting. The members also agreed to prepare suggested language for a townwide mailing regarding recycling for the next meeting. Ms. McCarthy will reach out to the Green Team to request assistance with the design of the mailing.

f. Update from Deer Management Subcommittee: Minutes review- This discussion was tabled.

g. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls & enforcement of new and revised orders issued by Governor Baker- Ms. McCarthy reported she was happy to hear that 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine for MA frontline workers could arrive by the end of December. The members discussed that each state may set up different priority lists. Ms. Levison asked whether DPH would comment on the NY State Sheriff's challenge of enforcement of the 10 person limit on indoor gatherings; Ms. McCarthy stated she expects the Department of Public Health (DPH) would argue that the Thanksgiving guidance is meant to be a tool of educational advocacy and not a vehicle for ticketing. Ms. Levison shared that she received a telephone call from a member of the Congregational Church with questions regarding guidelines for a drive-in Christmas Eve service. The members requested she advise that guidelines will need to be followed. Ms. McCarthy reported that she contacted representatives from DPH, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Mass. Association of Health Boards (MAHB), and the Worcester Archdiocese regarding the most recent complaint of COVID-19 order violations at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School. She indicated that she received responses stating that if the School does not choose to follow DESE guidelines, they must follow the sector guidance for businesses which are much less school-friendly. Ms. McCarthy reported that she expects the Worcester Archdiocese to reach out to the School, and that Ms. Sbarra, of MAHB, advised that an inspection by the Health Agent would be recommended prior to any order issuance.

h. Update from the Emergency Response Team- Ms. Levison reported that she advised Mr. Bragan that she does not think a municipal COVID-19 testing site is required in Harvard, though CARES Act funding is available. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy agreed, citing that DPH has advised of a real preference for larger testing sites, and not those for small municipalities. Ms. Levison also reported that in discussions of the recent complaint regarding Immaculate Heart School, she asked Dr. Dwight if she would be willing to share the Harvard Public Schools' protocols with Immaculate Heart School; Dr. Dwight agreed to share the same with Ms. McCarthy if she was interested.

i. Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked whether any member was available to attend the RCAP workshop, *PFAS in Drinking Water & the New Massachusetts Regulations*, on 12/10/20. Mr. Mitchell stated he plans to attend this workshop, as well as the NGWA symposium on PFAS.

- Ms. Flynn advised that she is still awaiting responses to her request for availability for a drive-thru emergency dispensing site (EDS) planning meeting. The members asked that she send a reminder with a response date of 11/30/20.
- Ms. Flynn collected the members' responses to the PHEP survey regarding COVID-19 vaccination preparation.
- Ms. Flynn asked the members to consider draft revisions to the 2021 waste hauler permit application, and to consider how they would like to handle the pending permit application of UMM. The members asked her to advise UMM that if a completed application is not received by the end of December, a new application package will be required. Draft revisions to the hauler application were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on algal bloom testing and future planning- The members reviewed revisions to the draft algal bloom procedures document. Ms. Levison will continue to revise the document for review at the next meeting.
- b. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed.

PERMITS

- 36 Bolton Road-.After reviewing the submitted application package, Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit application, with local upgrade approvals, as requested; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 129 Brown Road- After reviewing the submitted application package, Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the application, previously permitted as 133 Brown Road; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 257 Ayer Road- After reviewing the submitted application package, Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the application for replacement of a distribution box; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Under Pin Hill Road, Lot 1- After reviewing the submitted application package, Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the plan as noted on Plan 8562; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of November 10, 2020. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the 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. It was agreed the Board will not plan to meet on December 28th, but reserved the date in case of the need for a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 9:11 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 11/10/20
- Draft FY22 budget spreadsheet
- E-mail from Jamie Terry, PHEP Region 2, of 11/24/20
- Draft 2021 waste hauler application
- Draft algal bloom procedures
- 36 Bolton Road: Proposed plan, variance request letter, local upgrade conditions form, and unsigned permit
- 129 Brown Road: Proposed plan, permit application, unsigned permit, and e-mail from the engineer regarding re-permitting & address change
- Under Pin Road, Lot 1: Proposed plan, application package, and unsigned permit
- 257 Ayer Road: Application and unsigned permit