

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
July 13, 2021
Approved: July 27, 2021

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

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

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Vote on Board of Health Chair- Ms. McCarthy confirmed that she would appreciate another member acting as Chair. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to elect Ms. Levison as Chair; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Ms. Levison accepted the nomination with the caveat that she would be grateful if clear liaison positions for delegation of assignments are established; the other members agreed. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mitchell were in favor of the motion by roll call vote; Ms. Levison abstained.

b. Consider request for testimony at "Municipal Matters and Local Action" hearing regarding PFAS (7/20/21)- Mr. Mitchell reported that he did not hear back after requesting additional information regarding the invitation from Representative Hogan's Chief of Staff. Ms. McCarthy stated that she would consider voicing the concern with the existing policy which indicates a property whose well results are above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) will be forced into the Mass. Contingency Program (MCP). Ms. Levison stated she would want to voice a need to strengthen the resources and funding available for private well owners addressing PFAS contamination.

c. Consider attendance at MA Municipal Association (MMA) PFAS Webinar (7/21/21, 12-1pm)- Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison stated they plan to attend. Ms. Flynn confirmed that Mr. Kilhart also received notification of the webinar.

d. Update Harvard 2021 EDS Plan- Ms. Flynn advised that she is the process of updating the 2021 EDS Plan received from PHEP Region 2. In preparation for the next meeting, the members agreed to review several of the Appendices and Annex documents to identify the individuals best suited for each role listed.

e. Offer of support of COA's cooling centers- The BOH members discussed the role of the BOH in encouraging a set procedure for how and when cooling/warming centers should be operated. Ms. Levison noted that the COA has been very proactive in communicating with Town seniors , but the Emergency Management Team (EMT) should consider how to reach other at-risk populations, including young families. Ms. Levison will write Chief Sicard to identify the

conditions which should trigger opening of a warming/cooling station and request a discussion to establish procedures for opening, including a call down list of staff, buildings which will be opened on weekdays and weekends, and methods for communication to the public. Mr. Grossman suggested it would be appropriate to discuss this with the Emergency Management Team in September at the start of hurricane season.

f. Consider Harvard COVID-19 vaccination demographic data of 6/10/21- The BOH members discussed the graphic presenting the demographic of Harvard's vaccinated as of June 10th received from PHEP Region 2. Ms. Levison noted that the graphic states Harvard's population is 6,951 and suspects the data presented includes populations, including the Federal Medical Prison at Devens. Ms. Eliyesil confirmed that her research shows the number of vaccinated is accurate, but the population includes the 1,100 male prisoners at Devens, most of which fall into the 30-40 y.o. age range. Mr. Mitchell volunteered to recalculate the percentages of vaccinated Harvard residents in each of the age brackets; Ms. Flynn will request Harvard's population data from Town Clerk, Marlene Kenney, for his use. Ms. McCarthy stated that Dr. Dwight expressed her willingness to assist the BOH in encouraging vaccination as the parent population falls into the age range with lowest reported vaccination rates in Harvard; Ms. Levison suggested the BOH similarly contact Harvard Family Association & Village Nursery School, if needed. Ms. McCarthy stated it is incumbent on the BOH to stress to our community to the importance of vaccination because the viral load of the Delta variant is proving to be much higher.

g. Consider distribution of US Army Corps of Engineers' educational card re magnet fishing- Ms. McCarthy reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requested the BOH distribute a two-sided card warning of the dangers of magnet fishing. The BOH Members requested Ms. Flynn contact the Friends of the Oxbow, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Parks & Recreation Commission, Council-on-Aging, The Harvard Press, the Nashua River Watershed Association, Fire Department, and Department of Public Works, for assistance in distributing and posting the information card. Mr. Grossman agreed to post the card at the Harvard Sportsmen Club, and Ms. Flynn will post a card at the front of Town Hall.

h. Report from MAHB Educational Sessions re funding for local public health- Ms. Levison stated that she did not receive a response to her inquiry regarding whether the Sessions would be recorded and available.

i. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls- Ms. McCarthy reported that the in-home vaccination program is still running, Partners-in-Health's assistance with contact tracing will end in September, and that any community can request a mobile vaccination unit at any time. Ms. McCarthy also stated that State Epidemiologist Dr. Brown indicated that very few breakthrough cases have resulted in severe outcomes, and those which have are in patients with underlying conditions. Further, she reported Dr. Brown stated that the viral load in the breakthrough cases is much lower. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the calls also discussed reorganization of the local and regional health departments.

j. Clerk and Health Agent Update:

- Ms. Flynn requested approval of an invoice from Leland Family Enterprise LLC for an algae sampling supply kit. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the invoice of Leland Family Enterprise LLC, Vendor #4531 in the amount \$630.90; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Ms. McCarthy confirmed that these algae sampling supplies were ordered via a Purchase Order for funds to come out of the BOH's FY21 budget. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn requested approval of the invoice from Alpha Graphics for production and mailing of the Mosquito Tips postcard. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve

payment to Alpha Graphics for printing services in the amount of \$936.56; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

- Ms. Flynn requested reimbursement to Ms. McCarthy in the amount of \$50 for her purchase of a giftcard to The Harvard General Store for the student volunteer, Lena Aloise for doing the graphic design of two BoH mailings. Ms. Levison made a motion to reimburse Ms. McCarthy for the \$50 gift card to the graphic designer; Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison were in favor by roll call vote; Ms. McCarthy abstained.
- Ms. Flynn requested approval of payment to Amiscience for the fluorometer and in-house calibration, and confirmed that the funds for purchase will come out of the new account created by the recently passed warrant article. Ms. McCarthy motion to pay Amiscience \$1,850 for the fluorometer; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Mr. Grossman reported that he drove past the Madigan Lane goat farm and noted that one manure pile was moved to another location, but not removed from the property. He further stated that a letter was sent to the property owner consistent with the BOH's last discussion.
- Ms. McCarthy reported that Director of Community & Economic Development, Chris Ryan, would like the BOH to consider his proposed reorganization of the Land Use Boards office. Ms. McCarthy stated that Land Use Boards Administrator, Liz Allard, will send Ms. Flynn the proposed office matrix with further information about the roles of the proposed part-time positions.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Drought risk status update- Mr. Mitchell reported that Harvard is currently at zero risk of drought, and recommended that the draft update he sent to Ms. Flynn not be posted at this time.

b. Arbovirus risk status update and assignment of action items from the proposed Arbovirus Outreach Plan- Ms. Flynn confirmed that Harvard is currently low risk for EEE and WNV. Ms. Levison stated that she is quite disappointed that the application for opting out of mosquito spraying was denied by the State. The members agreed it would be appropriate to request the Select Board first inquire as to the criteria for evaluation and how Harvard scored, and then consider writing Jamie Eldridge. Ms. McCarthy will communicate the BOH's request to Ms. Minar. Ms. Levison also expressed her disappointment in the final layout of the "Mosquitoes in Harvard" postcard. The members agreed to pay more attention to layout changes in a proof prior to printing.

c. Report from UMASS Extension "Tick Topics" webinar- Mr. Mitchell indicated that he did not yet receive the video and will follow-up with UMASS Extension.

d. Further discussion regarding purchasing algal bloom signs and testing equipment- The BOH members provided additional comments to Mr. Grossman regarding the dial sign design. The members agreed that the sign should be 2x3 or 3x4 feet, printed on hard plastic and then attached to wooden frame. Mr. Grossman will revise the draft for BOH review prior to sending it to the graphic designer.

e. Continued discussion regarding preparation of best practices for water quality samplers of private wells- Mr. Mitchell agreed to recirculate Mr. Grossman's comments for Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy's review.

f. PFAS update, including but not limited to, continued discussion re MassDEP Private Well PFAS testing program- Ms. Levison indicated that DEP confirmed the postcards inviting participation were mailed out. Ms. McCarthy stated she learned that chemicals used in fracking included PFAS. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that fracking is not performed in Massachusetts. Mr. Mitchell stated he will follow up with Ms. Briggs at MA DEP regarding whether private wells testing over the MCL for PFAS will be referred to the MCP. Ms. Levison will confirm the date of the RAB meeting in August.

g. Review Action Items- All action items were reviewed as part of other agenda discussions.

PERMITS

- 204 Ayer Road: Mr. Grossman explained that the permit application is for a transfer of ownership, and noted that the water sample of the private well has been collected and the possible need for a Public Water Supply communicated. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the permit; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Lot 1 Glenview Road: Mr. Grossman confirmed the proposed septic design plan for new construction meets all the requirements of Title 5 and the local regulations. Ms. McCarthy motion to approve; Mr. Mitchell second. All were in favor by roll call.
- 268 Old Littleton: Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the septic permit for a new tank; Ms. McCarthy second. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of June 22, 2021. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 6/22/21
- Draft revisions to 2021 EDS Plan
- USACE "Former Fort Devens: 3Rs of Explosives Safety"
- Revised draft algal bloom risk dial sign design

- 204 Ayer Road: Unsigned septic permit
- Lot 1 Glenview Road: Unsigned septic permit, application, and proposed SDS plan
- 268 Old Littleton Road: Unsigned septic permit and application
- Invoices of Amiscience, Leland Family Enterprises, and AlphaGraphics
- Receipt from Harvard General Store