

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**July 27, 2021**  
**Approved: August 24, 2021**

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

*Attending (Including but not limited to):* Alison Flynn, Clerk, Harvard Board of Health (“BOH”); Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Chris Rogers; Keli Callaghan, Homeowner, 268 Old Littleton Road; Sagar Kathuria and Madhavi Koli, Homeowners, 47 Ann Lees Road.

Ms. Levison called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. 268 Old Littleton Road: Consideration of bedroom deed restriction- Ms. Callaghan presented the proposed renovation plans for her existing home. Mr. Rogers requested the BOH consider approving a four-bedroom deed restriction in anticipation of the owner’s application for a building permit for the renovations. The members considered the plans and agreed that a four-bedroom deed restriction would be appropriate. Ms. Levison will execute the document on behalf of the members.

b. Friot’s Water Treatment: Request for consideration as an approved water sampler in anticipation of home sales- The Board Members reviewed the request of Friot’s Water Treatment and considered the listed qualifications. Mr. Grossman recommended that a condition of the approval be that Friot’s cannot sample for water quality after their own installation of mitigation equipment for an exceedance, and that water quality results be submitted to the BOH within 2 weeks of receipt and at least 30 days prior to sale of the property. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the application on a 6 month interim period, with the condition that water results shall be submitted to the board with 2 weeks following their receipt, and that Friot’s is restricted from sampling treatment systems which they have installed. Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

c. Liaison assignments- The BOH members agreed to the following liaison assignments:

Libby Levison	Sharon McCarthy	Chris Mitchell
COA Emergency Management (w/Chris’s EMT support) Arbovirus (w/Sharon) AgCom	LUB Schools Sustainability Arbovirus (w/Libby)	Pond algae (w/support from Sharon) Water Commission/DPW Drought PFAS

It was agreed that communications with the Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation, Select Board, and Finance Committee would be shared responsibilities, and Mr. Grossman will

continue to liaise with PHEP.

d. Consider lobbying NABH for a sustainability expert shared among towns- Ms. McCarthy reported that a series of resiliency and sustainability projects have been ongoing with the support of Chris Ryan and more technical expertise will be needed in the near future. She indicated that she approached a friend in Bolton regarding the possibility of lobbying NABH to pursue a grant for a shared consultant, and the Bolton Master Plan committee received the idea enthusiastically. Ms. McCarthy stated she would like to contact the BOH's for Pepperell, Groton, and Stow to see if they are also interested; Ms. Levison agreed to provide her with contact information for a Pepperell Member who is an acquaintance. Mr. Mitchell stated that he likes the idea of a shared resource and expects that it would be a slow process. \

e. Report from Mass. Municipal Association Webinar on PFAS (7/21/21)- Ms. Levison reported that the webinar was interesting and informative including comments from Representative Kate Hogan regarding the efforts of the PFAS Task Force, a presentation on treatment options from Weston & Sampson, and comments from the Easton Town Manager who suggested every public water supply should have an outreach and mitigation plan in place in the event of an exceedance. Mr. Mitchell noted that Easton offered a filter rebate program to its residents. Ms. Levison encouraged the BOH to follow-up with Representative Hogan's staff member regarding his invitation to offer testimony to the PFAS Task Force; Mr. Mitchell will do so. Ms. Flynn will contact MMA for the webinar recording to be shared with the Water Commissioners and Mr. Kilhart.

f. Discuss attendance at Devens RAB Meeting (8/19/21)- Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison agreed to split attendance at the meeting.

g. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls- Ms. McCarthy reported that Dr. Brown presented on deer ticks and incidents of tick-borne disease, and noted that Tick Report services have gone private. Dr. Brown also reported that there have been no EEE-positive mosquito samples thus far. Ms. McCarthy stated that Dr. Brown explained that the Delta variant has been found to be twice as transmissible, and that while those vaccinated are not becoming as sick, their viral loads appear to be as high as those unvaccinated. Ms. McCarthy reported that new vaccination software will be implemented on September 1<sup>st</sup> and DPH is looking for respondents to a forthcoming survey regarding the academic health corps.

h. Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn confirmed that the BOH continues to receive weekly E. coli sampling reports for the Town Beach. Mr. Grossman assured the BOH members that results above the MCL will be brought to their attention.
- Ms. Flynn reported that the new property owner for 204 Ayer Road has promised that the overflowing donation bins in the park lot will be addressed.
- Mr. Grossman reported that he began his observations of Bare Hill Pond for cyanobacteria, and will continue to do so at least once per week during the season. He indicated that the visibility has been okay at 4.5- 6 feet, and 80 degrees. He further advised that the first sampling for lab analysis will be shipped to a WA lab the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August. Mr. Grossman stated that Lunenburg and another NABH Town has already had a bloom this year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Drought risk status update- Mr. Mitchell recommended that as the drought risk continues to be zero, this item be removed from the agenda until we are informed by the State that there is a change in drought status.
- b. Arbovirus risk status update and further discussion regarding denial of Application for Municipality Opt-Out of SRMCB Spraying- Ms. Levison confirmed that the Select Board sent the BOH's drafted letter to the EEA requesting the criteria and scoring of Harvard's Opt-Out Application. The BOH Members also discussed receipt of Pepperell's Application and Approval Letter. Ms. Flynn noted that Pepperell's application similarly reported one EEE-positive mosquito sample in the last 5 years and that Pepperell's arbovirus management plan was not more extensive than Harvard's. The members agreed that it appeared that any Town who was deemed of "moderate" risk was not approved for the opt-out. They further agreed to wait until the next BOH meeting to hear back from the EEA before requesting the Select Board contact Harvard's State Representatives for assistance. Mr. Mitchell will draft follow-up letters to the Select Board requesting additional action in the event of EEA response or no response.
- c. Report from UMASS Extension "Tick Topics" webinar- Mr. Mitchell stated that he has not yet received the recording and will follow-up.
- d. Further discussion regarding algal bloom sampling procedures, and purchasing of risk status signage and equipment for sampling- Mr. Grossman stated he sent the most recent revisions to the graphic designer. The Members reviewed and revised the draft "No Swimming" and "No Contact" signs to be posted at the Town Beach and Thurston's Cove, as needed. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the prior year's signs are approximately 2x3 feet, foam core, with metal H-brackets. Ms. Levison will continue to work with Ms. Flynn to finalize these signs before sending them to AlphaGraphics for printing.
- e. Continued discussion regarding preparation of best practices for water quality samplers of private wells- The Members reviewed and revised the latest draft. Ms. Flynn will continue to revise the document and before sending it to Mr. Mitchell for further comment.
- f. PFAS update, including but not limited to continued discussion re MassDEP Private Well PFAS testing program- Mr. Mitchell reported that he has not received a response from MassDEP. Ms. Levison noted that the BOH received copies of results of a few participants in the testing program which fell below the MCL.
- g. Consider request for testimony at "Municipal Matters and Local Action" hearing regarding PFAS- Ms. Levison suggested that the BOH should follow-up on the invitation to offer testimony. Mr. Mitchell or Ms. Flynn will do so.
- h. Continued update of Harvard 2021 EDS Plan- This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- i. Continued discussion regarding Harvard COVID-19 vaccination demographic data- The members reviewed and revised Ms. Levison's draft Press Release. Mr. Mitchell will prepare the vaccination data and send the same to Ms. Levison for her inclusion in the Press Release. The Members agreed that the demographic data should not need to be updated again until the next group of ages are vaccine eligible.
- j. Report from MAHB Educational Sessions regarding funding for local public health- Ms. Levison stated that she has not yet received a response from MAHB.

k. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed. Ms. Levison stated she will contact the Fire Chief this week about preparing for warming and cooling stations. Mr. Mitchell indicated that a hoarding complaint filed by the Police Department was recently brought to his attention. Mr. Grossman stated that while the BOH does not keep a running list of properties with hoarding concerns, he does reach out to property owners when complaints are reported but he is often not permitted access to the property. He further indicated that the Police Department last week filed a hoarding complaint but he has not been able to follow-up to date.

## **PERMITS**

- 47 Ann Lees: Mr. Kathuria and Ms. Koli requested the BOH's attention concerning their pending building permit. They explained that they purchased the property in January but have not moved in pending resolution of concerns with water quality and the building structure. Mr. Kathuria explained that when they were installing water treatment equipment to address their gross alpha exceedance, they discovered mold that needed to be remediated. Additionally, they discovered damage to the roof, insulation, and ceiling when installing solar panels. Each issue required building permits, and while Mr. Grossman signed off on the permit for the mold remediation, he did not feel comfortable with signing off on a second building permit without the water quality issue being fully resolved. The BOH Members agreed to allow Mr. Grossman to sign off on the second building permit with the condition that occupancy cannot occur until the BOH has received full compliance with the water quality requirements. Ms. Levison asked that Mr. Kathuria and Ms. Koli also advise contractors working in the house that they should not drink the water.
- 57 Old Mill Road: The stable permit application and Ms. Allard's comments were reviewed and considered. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the permit with adherence to Ms. Allard's comments; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 25 Myrick Lane: The septic permit application and proposed plan were considered by the Members. Mr. Grossman noted his concern that water quality results have not yet been received by the BOH in anticipation of the sale. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the upgrade permit pending receipt of water quality testing results; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Park Lane: Mr. Grossman advised that a septic permit application for a Park Lane property will be forthcoming. He stated that the property is currently under agreement and the homeowners have asked the engineer to design for a 4-bedroom system with the existing 3-bedroom approval. The engineer is currently looking for several variances, and Mr. Grossman stated that he has explained that an increase in capacity will require full compliance.

## **MINUTES**

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of July 13, 2021. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA-** Items for the next agenda were discussed. Mr. Mitchell suggested the agenda be limited as the permit discussion could be lengthy. Ms. McCarthy suggested DESE may release updated mask guidance in early August.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Ms. McCarthy made the motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

**Documents Referenced:**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 7/13/21
- 268 Old Littleton Road: Proposed whole house plans and bedroom deed restriction
- Friot's Water Treatment's request for consideration as approved water sampler in anticipation of home sale
- Revised draft algal bloom risk dial sign design
- Draft "No swimming" and "No Contact" signs
- 25 Myrick Lane: Unsigned septic permit, application, and proposed septic design plan
- 57 Old Mill Road: Stable application and e-mailed comments from Ms. Allard
- Revised draft water sampling policies