

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
March 28, 2022
Approved: April 26, 2022

Board of Health Members present: Christopher Mitchell; Sharon McCarthy.

Others Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health (BOH) Administrative Assistant; Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH); Sotir Papillilo, Craftsman Village Harvard; Donald Provencher, Provencher Engineering LLC.

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Craftsman Village Harvard: Consider proposed irrigation well sampling program and condo. document exhibit re use of irrigation well

Mr. Paillilo was joined by Mr. Provencher, design engineer of the Public Water Supply at Craftsman Village Harvard (CVH). Mr. Mitchell expressed concern with CVH's proposed sampling schedule of the irrigation well in that it did not include PFAS and Dieldrin. He explained that the BOH's reason for requiring sampling of the irrigation well is based on the CVH's request for an irrigation well within the protective zone of the Public Water Supply (PWS). Mr. Mitchell stated that adding another conduit within the protective zone where there are documented impacts on and around the property necessitates sampling of the irrigation well for those contaminants. Mr. Provencher indicated that the irrigation well was monitored during the 48-hour pump test of the three PWS wells. He indicated that while there were several feet of drawdown noted in the irrigation well after 48 hours, DEP did not express concern with the impact. Further, he indicated the comprehensive sampling of each of the 3 PWS wells at the end of the test did not result in detection of contaminants other than those which the wells are receiving treatment for: iron, manganese, arsenic, and gross alpha. Mr. Provencher confirmed that CVH has not yet received its PWS sampling schedule from DEP, and expects that it will include sampling for iron, manganese, arsenic, and gross alpha. He stated that he is recommending CVH sample the irrigation well for those four annually, and agrees that it's a good idea to sample the irrigation well because there are fractures in the irrigation well deeper than the PWS wells. Mr. Provencher also noted that all three PWS wells were non-detect for 14 PFAS compounds. Mr. Mitchell stated the BOH concern stems from the knowledge that the seepage velocity is very quick in fractured rock, that the request is for pumping in a protective zone from a depth, and that they will be adding a stress with known Dieldrin on site and PFAS in the area. Ms. McCarthy added that it is unknown which way the PFAS is flowing and that just because no PFAS was detected now does not predict whether PFAS will be present in the future. Mr. Provencher stated that he does not want to offer a sampling schedule that will be quite costly and suggested PFAS could cost \$600 per sample. Mr. Mitchell explained that the reason to sample the irrigation well is to ensure the irrigation well is not introducing Dieldrin and PFAS to the PWS, and noted that the BOH approval of the irrigation well was contingent on sampling for these known contaminants on a regular basis. Mr. Provencher suggested that DEP typically requires sampling for a non-detected contaminant every 3-5 years. Ms. McCarthy stated that this historical perspective of DEP requirements does not take into

account a nearby source area which is still being investigated. Mr. Papillilo stated that he understood the BOH concerns and would like to wait to receive the DEP sampling schedule and consider the economic impacts before coming back to speak with the BOH again. Mr. Grossman stated that the proposal for use of the irrigation well suggested it would be used for irrigation of a very small acreage equal to a low volume of water, and suggested use of the PWS for this purpose wouldn't impact the yield all that much. Mr. Provencher suggested that any sampling of the irrigation well be done during irrigation season; Mr. Mitchell agreed that sampling once per year in the middle of irrigation season would be appropriate. Mr. Provencher also suggested the agreement include a provision that allows the future HOA to return to the BOH with a request for reduction in frequency of sampling if the conditions warrant it; Mr. Grossman and Mr. Mitchell agreed that was a reasonable inclusion. Mr. Mitchell also stated that the Army investigation of the bedrock would also provide the BOH with more information.

Consider attendance at DPH Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop (5/18/22, 9a-1pm)

Mr. Grossman stated that he plans to register for this workshop.

(Mr. Grossman left the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.)

Consider recommendation to the Select Board re Ms. Levison's reappointment (due 5/1/22)

Ms. McCarthy voted to endorse Ms. Levison's reappointment to the Select Board; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor. Ms. Flynn noted that the Board may be asked to reconsider if any volunteer forms are received from other residents before May 1st.

Discuss rotation to cover emails to BOH Members on weekends

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy agreed that it is reasonable to have a rotation of weekend coverage of e-mails sent directly to the Members. Mr. Mitchell suggested that Ms. Levison prepare the schedule as Chair.

Consider participation in Climate Change Initiative's Earth Day event (4/30/22)

Ms. McCarthy stated that the Climate Change Initiative is organizing an Earth Day event which will include a series of displays on the patio next to the General Store, a map of homes displaying their efforts at reducing the carbon footprint, and other activities. She indicated that she would like to see if student volunteer, Lena Aloise, will assist the BOH in preparing a poster with recycling tips. Ms. McCarthy stated that Ms. Levison will provide her with 20 recycling tips previously prepared for The Harvard Press, and asked that Ms. Aloise be allowed to finalize the waste hauler mailing prior to taking on this project. Ms. Flynn will reach out to Ms. Aloise to see if she is interested in assisting the BOH on this project.

COVID-19: Discuss current status, test availability, and mask advisory

Ms. Flynn stated that she has not received feedback from the community since the decision to lift the mask mandate. Mr. Mitchell stated that the businesses he visited were thankful for the BOH's outreach on the mandate changes. Ms. McCarthy noted that households can order additional free test kits from the federal government.

Discuss any questions from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Call reports

Ms. McCarthy reported that the calls did not include any updates on the status of distribution of

tests to municipalities. She stated that the next call will include an overview of the wastewater monitoring program.

Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn reminded the Members that an e-mail was sent regarding the Code of Conduct and Anti-Harassment Policy which requires their return of an acknowledgement to the Town Clerks. Ms. McCarthy reported that she has returned hers.

OLD BUSINESS

PFAS update, including but not limited to continued discussion re MassDEP Private Well PFAS testing program

Mr. Mitchell stated that the RAB Board will meet next week. Ms. Flynn advised that in response to an offer from Ms. Sobalvarro to post information regarding the DEP private well program to the Town homepage, she wrote to DEP for a status update. Ms. Flynn reported that of the 37 properties targeted by DEP in conjunction with the HBOH, the BOH has received results from only 8 wells, and no results since October 2021. Mr. Mitchell suggested it would be appropriate to follow-up with DEP to ask how many Harvard wells they have sampled, how many they plan to sample, and to please share the results. Ms. McCarthy speculated that DEP does not like the geographic distribution of the 100 residents who applied for the program. Mr. Mitchell suggested Ms. Flynn also offer to assist DEP in targeted outreach. The Members agreed that it would not be helpful to have a homepage alert at this time because DEP is targeting specific locales.

Review Action Items

Ms. Flynn agreed to send the Members an e-mail of any outstanding Action Items.

PERMITS

Waste Hauler Permit: GW Shaw & Son

Ms. Flynn advised that the application is in compliance with the regulation except for 2-3 commercial generators who are not recycling through GW Shaw and for which Commercial Generator Exemption Forms were not pursued by the hauler. Ms. Flynn recommended the BOH consider issuing the permit with the understanding that she will reach out to the commercial generators who are not in compliance. Ms. Flynn confirmed this would not be overly burdensome for her to do so, and confirmed that such an approval has been issued in the past. Ms. McCarthy made a motion that the BOH grant the permit to GW Shaw; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Mr. Mitchell noted that he observed a waste hauler collecting without wearing hi-visibility clothing. Ms. Flynn will reach out to the haulers to suggest they supply their operators with appropriate safety gear.

MINUTES

The BOH Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of 2/14/22. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve the minutes as revised; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The BOH Members reviewed the draft Minutes of 2/28/22 as revised at the last meeting. The Minutes were not accepted as Ms. McCarthy was not in attendance on 2/28/22 and Ms. Levison was not present to vote on Minutes approval.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The Members discussed that items which were held for Ms. Levison's return will be added to the next agenda. Ms. McCarthy requested a continued discussion regarding the Earth Day display.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. McCarthy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Posted Agenda
- Craftsman Village Harvard: Proposed sampling schedule & exhibit from the condo. documents
- Email from DPH re 5/18/22 algae workshop
- Email from S. McCarthy re Earth Day event
- Email from DEP re status of private well sampling program
- DPH COVID-19 Call notes of 3/15 & 3/22/22
- Waste Hauler Permit Application of GW Shaw & Son
- Draft Minutes of 2/14/22 and Revised Draft Minutes of 2/28/22