

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
June 14, 2022
Approved: July 26, 2022

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

Others Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health (BOH) Administrative Assistant; Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH); John Seeley, 20 Pinnacle Lane.

Ms. Levison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

20 Pinnacle Road: Consider request for bedroom deed restriction

Mr. Grossman advised that a deed restriction is required because the Assessor's records reflect 5 bedrooms, but the approved septic capacity is for 4 bedrooms, and the property has 8 rooms. Mr. Seeley indicated that he understands the need for a bedroom deed restriction and is amenable. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the requested bedroom deed restriction for 20 Pinnacle Road, as presented; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Discuss drought monitoring

Mr. Mitchell stated that most of the eastern half of the state is abnormally dry or in the first stage of drought. He suggested that as it looks like it's going to be a hot, dry summer the BOH should prepare drought messaging. The Members reviewed Mr. Mitchell's draft ad for the Harvard Press and agreed that the message would work better as a Letter to the Editor. Mr. Mitchell will re-work the ad as a Letter and circulate it for input.

Report from Conservation Commission meeting (6/6/22)

Ms. Levison reported at her attendance at the Pond Committee's presentation to ConCom and of their request to pump water from the deepest area of the Pond. She indicated that the Pond Committee would like to pump out a volume consistent with the normal dam spillover in attempt to pull out water at depths where there is phosphorus loading. The Pond Committee requested permission to do this from Mid-June to late July. Ms. Levison indicated that the Pond consultants are not concerned about effects of the displaced water on the wetlands. Ms. Levison stated that ConCom were not opposed to their request. She indicated that the consultants state they are unsure whether the pumping will be effective in reducing cyanobacteria, but it is a basically a no-cost option.

Report from Land Use Boards (LUB) meeting (6/14/22)

Mr. Grossman reported that the LUB Boards discussed the status of current applications, including 203 and 295 Ayer Road, as well as Pine Hill Village. He advised that Pine Hill Village is currently in its 2nd phase of construction and quite a few LUB-related items need to be addressed by the

contractor.

Report from EPA webinar: Read the Label, Pesticide Label Guidance

Ms. Levison reported that she did not learn much from this webinar and would not recommend further BOH attendance.

Report from Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative Forum: Algae Control Methods

This report was continued to later meeting.

COVID-19 Current Status

Ms. Levison reported that the case numbers are going down slowly and that percent positivity is still at 8%.

Ms. Levison reported that Harvard expects to receive approximately 2,400 rapid, at-home tests within two weeks and the BOH needs to identify where they will be stored and distributed. Ms. Levison agreed to write to Dr. Dwight to see if the boxes can be stored at the schools. She also agreed to write to Sam Wong at DPH to identify how many boxes will be delivered, how large the shipment will be, the dates of expiration for the kits, and whether Harvard can provide input on the date and location of delivery. Mr. Grossman confirmed that Harvard will not be expected to track who gets the tests nor ensure that only residents receive tests. The BOH Members discussed different possible locations and methods for distribution. A tentative distribution date of July 9th was agreed upon. Ms. Levison volunteered to inform the COVID-19 Emergency Response Team, and to request use of the light-up sign for advertising. Ms. McCarthy will reach out to the Public Health Corps to request their preparation of a short outreach message regarding expiration date extensions for home tests.

Update from DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar

Ms. McCarthy stated that a discussion regarding distribution of opioid settlement funds was included. Ms. Levison stated that Harvard will receive payments beginning in 2023 with \$38,000, and in varying amounts each year, totaling \$364,000 by 2038. Ms. McCarthy stated that we can expect clear guidelines for how the Towns can use the funds. Mr. Grossman agreed to ask Mr. Garreffo how he anticipates NABH communities will use their award.

Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider her reimbursement for payment of the annual software subscription to Acrobat Standard DC in the amount of \$155.88 (Invoice No. 2136259347, dated 3/25/22). Mr. Mitchell made a motion to reimburse Ms. Flynn; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider approval of payment to Nashoba Associated Boards of Health in the amount of \$6,917.14 (Invoice No. 2023-109, dated 6/1/22) for First Quarter FY23 nursing & environmental services to be submitted with the first Bill Warrant for FY23. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the NABH invoice in the amount of \$6,917.14; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Levison advised the Members that she and Mr. Ryan have been working with Ms. Flynn on her Remote Work Plan. Ms. Flynn will circulate the Plan to the Members once approved.

She indicated that while the Remote Work Plan is a newly required form for Town employees, the plan will be consistent with her work practices for the past two years.

- The group discussed dates they will be out-of-town or on vacation.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss outreach ads in the Harvard Press

Ms. Levison reported that the Press ad regarding water quality was submitted for print. Mr. Michell and Ms. McCarthy approved the draft ad regarding Pond water monitoring. Ms. McCarthy agreed to prepare an ad encouraging COVID-19 booster vaccines.

Discuss draft Letter to the Editor in support of Private Wells legislature

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mitchell agreed to send Ms. Levison comments on her draft Letter to the Editor.

Further consideration of draft seasonal conversion guidance document

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Grossman agreed to continue to work on the seasonal conversion guidance document.

Approval of revisions to the Bare Hill Pond Algal Bloom Procedures

Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the revised Procedures; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Continued discussion of use of remaining funds in year-to-date budget

Mr. Mitchell stated he identified a company that produces kiosks for municipalities and government agencies, and will investigate whether a kiosk could be delivered in FY22. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve spending up to \$1,000 for a sign kiosk; Ms. McCarthy seconded. The members agreed that footings and cement should be included in that funding approval. All were in favor by roll call vote. Mr. Mitchell subsequently made a motion to amend the prior motion to approve spending up to \$1,200; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Mr. Grossman stated that the sign should be installed by mid-July. Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Levison indicated that early-season cell counts should be obtained to calibrate the fluorometer. Ms. Levison asked Mr. Grossman to start sampling mid-June; he agreed to do so the following week.

Ms. Levison asked for the BOH's approval to purchase five H brackets for the beach signs; the Members agreed.

Ms. Flynn indicated that she will coordinate with Ms. Allard to order LUB office supplies. Ms. Levison requested she include green paper in her purchases.

Discuss kiosk for beach water quality sign

The BOH Members reviewed Ms. Levison's draft memorandum to the Select Board requesting installation of a sign kiosk on Pond Road. Ms. Levison agreed to revise the memo to include a

request for DPW assistance in installation of the kiosk.

Continued discussion regarding BOH interest in goals of the Climate Action Plan

This discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

Next steps regarding revisions to the waste hauler regulation

Mr. Mitchell agreed to prepare draft revised language for the hauler regulation.

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

Mr. Mitchell reported on his attendance at a recent DEP briefing. He stated that a higher percentage of PFAS-impacted sites are located in the central region than any other region in the state. He also indicated that MaryJude Pigsley was very complimentary to Harvard's regulation and requirements for PFAS testing during discussion in a breakout group. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that there are indications that the EPA is looking to significantly lower the current federal limitations for PFAS. Mr. Mitchell also noted that he recently read an interesting article about organic farmers running into PFAS issues because of contaminated soil; Ms. Levison stated she has read about this being an issue in Maine.

Review Action Items

Action items were reviewed. Ms. McCarthy agreed to pick up a gift card for Ms. Aloise.

PERMITS

Septic:

- 74 Littleton County Road: Mr. Grossman stated he does not have any issues with issuance of this application for a distribution box permit. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the permit for 74 Littleton County Road; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 8 Simon Atherton Row: Mr. Grossman stated he does not have any issues with issuance of this application for a distribution box permit. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the permit for 8 Simon Atherton Row; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 20 Pinnacle Road: Mr. Grossman stated he does not have any issues with issuance of this application for a distribution box permit as the deed restriction was approved. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the permit for 20 Pinnacle Road; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Craftsman Village, Braeburn Court and Craftsman Village, Braeburn Court/Cortland Lane. Mr. Grossman explained that these permits reflect phasing of installation; this phase is for building sewer lines, and not changes from the original plan. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve both permits; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of April 26, 2022. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to accept the Minutes of 4/26/22 as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. Ms. McCarthy and

Ms. Levison were in favor by roll call vote; Mr. Mitchell abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of May 10, 2022. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the Minutes of 5/10/22 as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of May 24, 2022. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the Minutes of 5/24/22 as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison were in favor by roll call vote; Ms. McCarthy abstained as she was not present for the meeting.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed. Ms. Flynn advised that she expects as many as three requests for variances from the Private Wells requirements for the sale of property.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 4/26/22, 5/10/22, 5/24/22
- 20 Pinnacle: Proposed bedroom deed restriction, layout plans, and assessor's card;
- YTD budget reports for BOH our general fund and algae fund
- Adobe invoice for PDF software renewal;
- NABH 1st Quarter FY23 invoice;
- Ms. Levison's draft "Consider This" regarding PFAS legislation
- Mr. Mitchell's draft drought ad for the Press;
- Ms. Levison's notes re her attendance at the Pond Committee's presentation to ConCom;
- COVID update of 5.26.22 & case history spreadsheet;
- Draft revised algal blooms protocol;
- Draft letter to the Select Board regarding the sign kiosk for the beach water quality dial sign
- 74 Littleton County Road: Application for distribution box replacement and unsigned septic permit for approval;
- 8 Simon Atherton Row: Application for distribution box replacement and unsigned septic permit for approval;
- 20 Pinnacle Road: Application for distribution box replacement and unsigned septic permit for approval;
- Craftsman Village, Braeburn Court: Application for a building sewer-line install and unsigned septic permit for approval;

- Craftsman Village, Braeburn Court/Cortland Lane: Application for a building sewer-line install and unsigned septic permit for approval.