

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
June 28, 2022
Approved: August 16, 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); Martha Guptil; Hugh & Laura Silk; Elias Boedorf Kassis & Sylvia Boedorf; Chip DeVillaFranca; Andy Miller; Frances Walker;.

Ms. Levison called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

75 Oak Hill Road: Private Wells variance hearing and Request for Title 5 Waiver

Mr. Grossman stated the Board received a request to waive the requirement for a Title 5 Inspection and a request for a variance from the requirement to test the water quality prior to the sale of the property. Mr. Grossman stated that while he understands the reasoning for the request for the waivers, he asked the Board to consider what will happen if the sale to the current proposed buyers falls through. Mr. Silk stated that well drillers have suggested an install date in September is plausible. Mr. Grossman stated that if the sale falls through Ms. Guptil will be responsible for the upgrade of a failed septic system, and the BOH will have to consider how to address the water quality issue from the dug well. Ms. Silk reassured the BOH that they plan to take all steps necessary to ensure that the sale goes through and meets BOH requirements. The Board Members reviewed and revised the proposed binding agreement for the waivers.

Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the Title 5 waiver and Private Wells variance request as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Levison asked that the Silks communicate with the BOH if they are experiencing delays in their schedule to install the septic system and well. Mr. Silk agreed.

89 Slough Road: Private Wells variance hearing

Mr. DeVillaFranca explained that the reason for the variance request is that required treatment equipment has been installed by Friots but they will not have the post-treatment water quality results back before the scheduled closing of the property. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy expressed that the intent of the regulation, to ensure the buyers are fully aware of the water quality, is being met as evidenced by the presence of the buyers at the meeting. Mr. Boedorff Kassis stated he and his wife are both deeply committed to ensure the water quality meets regulation requirements should the post-treatment results come back as substandard and confirmed that an escrow account is in place.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion to grant the variance as requested and accept the deed notice as proposed; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Discuss messaging about dogs on Town Beach

Ms. Levison stated that she received an e-mail from Bob O'Shea of Parks & Recreation which suggested the Board of Health should enforce the restriction of dogs from the beach. The group discussed that the restriction of animals from the beach is a Bare Hill Pond regulation in the Code of the Town of Harvard which indicates it is enforceable by the Select Board. Ms. Levison will write Mr. O'Shea to advise him of the same.

Distribution of rapid, at-home COVID-19 test kits

Ms. Levison reported that Harvard will receive 1,170 boxes of two test kits per box received in 13 cases. She indicated that she exchanged correspondence with Jenny Gormley about her availability, as well as with Jason Cotting about ambulance service individuals available to assist on the day of distribution. Ms. Levison stated that she requested of Chief Sicard a few fire fighters to help direct traffic and confirmed that the Harvard Police Department will direct traffic on Pond Road. She indicated that she also has a team of volunteers prepared to adhere the stickers advising of the test kit expiration date extension to the kits prior to distribution. Ms. Levison reported that Ms. Eliyesil will include a notice in The Harvard Press, Dr. Dwight will send a message out to the Schools e-mail list, and Ms. Levison will post a notice to NextDoor Harvard. It was agreed that the number of kits offered to each car will be decided dependent on the event turnout. Ms. Levison indicated that the rain date will only be used in the event of thunder and lightning. Ms. Flynn confirmed that there are 2 six-foot tables in the EDS trailer. Ms. Levison confirmed that the light-up-sign is reserved for the event.

Review draft piece for The Harvard Press regarding drought status

Ms. McCarthy agreed to send comments on the draft piece for Mr. Mitchell's further revision.

Report from Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative Forum: Algae Control Methods (3/24/22)

Ms. Levison reported on her viewing of the first two segments the forum, including that ultrasonic algae control methods are not very effective.

Report from Emergency Planning Meeting (6/22/22)

Ms. Levison and Mr. Grossman reported on their attendance at the Emergency Planning Meeting. Ms. Levison stated that they learned that the first call during a weekend emergency event should be to Chief Sicard, and if unreachable, to Nashoba Regional Dispatch to locate the Fire officer on duty. Ms. Levison also reported that Ms. Natoli is capable of sending a Townwide e-mail notice.

Report from NABH Quarterly Meeting (6/23/22)

Ms. McCarthy stated that she made another pitch for a shared sustainability expert but received unsupportive comments from the Nashoba Executive Board member from Lunenberg. She indicated that she will prepare a document summarizing potential cost benefits. Ms. Levison reminded Mr. Garreffo of her interest in a get-together of NABH Board Members and Administrators.

COVID-19 Current Status

Ms. Levison stated she contacted Mr. Garreffi to confirm the case percent positivity rate.

Update from DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar

Ms. McCarthy reported that DPH has distributed Paxlovid to approximately 5,000 individuals in the state and highlighted the telehealth program for prescribing the same. She also indicated that Dr. Katie Brown provided a very informative overview of the status of Monkeypox in the US.

Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider an invoice from AlphaGraphics in the amount of \$12.50 for 5 extra H-brackets for the beach warning signs. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve Invoice No. 5474 for \$12.50 from AlphaGraphics; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Members consider payment of The Harvard Press Invoice No. 9034 in the amount of \$240.00 for publication of public outreach ads regarding private well testing (6/17/22) and algae risks (6/24/22). Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the invoice from The Harvard Press in the amount of \$240.00; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider reimbursement to S. McCarthy in the amount of \$77.95 for Visa gift card purchase at CVS Pharmacy to be gifted to student volunteer, Lena Aloise, for her assistance with her recent graphic design work. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to reimburse Ms. McCarthy in the by roll call vote; Ms. McCarthy abstained.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider reimbursement to herself the amount of \$48.45 for USPS shipment of the 6/21/22 Bare Hill Pond water sample, and an additional \$48.45 for the USPS shipment of the 6/28/22 Bare Hill Pond water sample to Aquatic Analysts in Washington State. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to reimburse Ms. Flynn in the amount of \$48.45, times two; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Flynn asked the Members, at the suggestion of the USPS, whether they would like to consider shipping the samples at a slower, less expensive rate. The Members agreed to continue to ship the samples at the same rate.

OLD BUSINESS

Update re status of Town Meeting warrant article for non-criminal disposition bylaw and discuss when ticketing is required

This discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

Further consideration of draft seasonal conversion guidance document

The group reviewed comments on the draft document and accepted the revisions as final. Ms. Flynn will add the document to the BOH website.

Discuss kiosk for beach water quality sign

Ms. Levison reported that the beach water quality sign is in the current beach kiosk after having

been cut to size. She indicated that Mr. Bragan communicated to Mr. Grossman the Select Board's support of the Board of Health's request to install a sign kiosk on Pond Road. Mr. Mitchell agreed to purchase the materials for the kiosk this week to be included in the FY22 encumbrances.

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

Ms. McCarthy reported that she has no updates from the sub-group.

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

Mr. Mitchell stated that the new limitations discussed in the EPA health advisory are so low, they are almost non-detectable.

Review Action Items

Action items were reviewed.

PERMITS

Permits applications were not considered.

MINUTES

Minutes were not reviewed.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- 75 Oak Hill Road: Variance request letter and proposed agreement;
- 89 Slough Road: Variance request letter, proposed agreement, proposed restrictive covenant, and water results;
- Email from Bob O'Shea re dogs on the beach;
- CVS Pharmacy receipt for purchase in the amount of \$77.95 for Visa gift card
- USPS receipt in the amount of \$48.45 for 6/21/22 shipment of Bare Hill Pond water sample
- USPS receipt in the amount of \$48.45 for 6/28/22 shipment of Bare Hill Pond water sample

- Harvard Press Invoice No. 9034 for publication of public outreach ads regarding private well testing (6/17/22) and algae risks (6/24/22)
- AlphaGraphic's invoice in the amount of \$12.50 for 5 H-Brackets
- Draft seasonal conversion document