

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
June 12, 2023
Approved: July 11, 2023

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

Others Attending, including but not limited to: Alison Flynn, Board of Health Clerk; Jim Garreffa, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided abbreviated remote meeting instructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider summer Board of Health meeting schedule

The group discussed meeting availability in August. They agreed to consider meeting only once, on the 15th, in August. They will revisit the issue at their next meeting.

Review of algal bloom monitoring schedule

The Members reviewed the 2022 algal bloom data and considered the algal bloom monitoring schedule for 2023. They agreed that, unless conditions appear which suggest earlier testing, fluoroscopy readings should begin on July 11th consistent with the current Bare Hill Pond Algal Bloom Protocols. Ms. McCarthy noted that the protocols should be updated to reflect Mr. O'Shea is Interim Beach Director. Ms. Levison noted that Ms. McWaters was hired as Director of Parks and Recreation with a start date at the end of August. It was agreed that Ms. Flynn will update the protocols after the FY24 BOH Chair is decided upon in July.

Report from the DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar

Ms. McCarthy indicated that there has not been a webinar since the last BOH Meeting. Ms. Levison stated that she plans to join the webinar scheduled for the following day.

Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the Board Members to consider the six invoices and reimbursement request of Ms. Levison sent to them in preparation for the meeting. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the invoices of The Great Exchange, Business Advantage, two invoices from the Harvard Press, AlphaGraphics, and the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health invoice for 1st Quarter FY24; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the reimbursement of Ms. Levison for purchase of the gift card for Ms. Aloise, student volunteer; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy were in favor by roll call vote; Ms. Levison abstained.

- Ms. Flynn reported that Ms. Levison was contacted by The Harvard Press to see whether the BOH would be making recommendations on air quality. The Members agreed that a News/Announcement with recommended resources would be appropriate. Ms. Levison will prepare an alert for Ms. Flynn to send out.
- Mr. Mitchell noted that he was pleased with how the stroke mailing came out. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she will pick-up stroke brochures for distribution by the churches.
- Ms. Flynn reported that the BOH received e-mails indicating dead fish were observed at Bare Hill Pond. Mr. Garreffi advised that he spoke to the complaining resident and based on the numbers reported this is likely a natural occurrence due to the Pond warming and oxygen dropping but that he will agree to visit Bare Hill Pond to investigate further.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Board whether they would like to use the DPH guidance on healthy summer activities for outreach. The Members asked that she post the guidance document to the BOH webpage.
- Mr. Garreffi advised Mr. Mitchell about the process for investigating complaints of hoarding.

PERMITS

Septic

Mr. Garreffi reported that he recently issued a distribution box permit for 95 Old Littleton Road.

Waste Hauler

Ms. Flynn reported that she has not received a response from Guido Services, Inc., to her requests for a 2023 waste hauler permit application. Ms. Levison noted that she observed a dumpster for Waste Management alongside the dumpster for Guido Services at the business location for Pink Dog. Ms. Flynn will contact Pink Dog to confirm whether Guido Services is its waste hauler. The BOH Members asked that she send a Cease and Desist Order via certified mail to Guido Services if confirmed.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider draft revisions to the Private Wells regulation to include a requirement for water quality testing and production of reports for rental properties

The BOH Members considered the water quality requirements in the model DEP regulation in comparison to the water quality requirements in the Harvard Private Wells regulation. They agreed to consider incorporating some of the model regulation requirements. Mr. Garreffi will review DEP's guidelines for uranium and radium testing and reach out to DEP for clarification, if necessary. The Members agreed to revisit the proposed revisions at the next meeting.

(Mr. Garreffi exited the meeting at 8:13 pm)

Status of satellite phone base station installation at the Bromfield School and Public Safety

Ms. Levison indicated that she will hold off on purchasing base station supplies until the new fiscal year in compliance with Mr. Mullane's end-of-fiscal-year Memo.

Continued discussion of July Tick Talk

Ms. Levison reported that the Tick Talk will be July 11th at 7pm and that the speaker, Blake Donius, worked with Larry Dapsis. She described the content for the promotional mailing which will also include tick and mosquito facts. Mr. Mitchell indicated that he should be able to attend the event; Ms. McCarthy will be away. Ms. Levison indicated she plans to distribute tick removers and repellent information, and display permethrin and gators.

Update re installing the dial/algae sign on Pond Road

Mr. Mitchell reported that he'd be continuing to work on the sign that week. He indicated that the sign would need to be installed in separate pieces because of its weight.

Continued discussion regarding placement of additional textile recycling bins on municipal property

Ms. Levison reported it is likely the bins will need to be placed at the middle parking lot between the Fire Station and Hildreth House. She will follow-up with Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sobalvarro.

Update re status of plans for a Styrofoam take-back event

Ms. Levison asked the group to consider whether an event in the fall would be effective. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mitchell suggested that a fall event would not give enough time for residents to collect styrofoam. The Members agreed advanced promotion of the event will be important. Ms. Flynn will diary to remind the Members to begin planning the event in December.

Update regarding submitted comments on the Harvard Housing Production Plan

Ms. McCarthy indicated that she has additional comments regarding the Plan, particularly regarding water and septic. She will prepare written comments for Ms. Flynn to forward on to Ms. Jennings of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Mitchell indicated he will try to attend the Public Comment meeting on June 28th if needed.

PFAS: Update, including but not limited to report from Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting (5/11/23) and continued discussion regarding PFAS ad

Mr. Mitchell reported that he and Ms. Levison attended the meeting. He indicated that they are very close to having their final plan for Phase 2 of Area 1 which abuts Harvard and are hoping to be in the field within the next month. He stated that he has not seen the plan yet, but they have indicated it will include more sampling and monitoring wells drilled in Harvard. Mr. Mitchell advised that a monitoring well is typically four inches and can be finished with a standup pipe or a grade finish; they are not very intrusive. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the BOH's role might be to advise residents of what is going on and to contact the BOH with any questions. The BOH Members agreed to hold off on running an ad regarding PFAS at this time, but to consider doing so again when the Devens RAB Phase 2 Plan is distributed.

Action Items

Action items were reviewed. Ms. Flynn agreed to send the BOH Members an updated list of action items.

MINUTES

Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 9th meeting, as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. Ms. Levison and Mr. Mitchell were in favor.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 23rd meeting, as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. Ms. Levison and Mr. Mitchell were in favor; Ms. McCarthy abstained.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCarty made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Posted Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 5/9/23 and 5/23/23
- Algal bloom data from 2022
- Draft revisions to the Private Wells regulation section on Water Quality
- Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, The Great Exchange, invoice of 5/25/23 in the amount of \$218.00
- Staples, Business Advantage Invoice No. 3538950333 in the amount of \$131.03
- Alpha Graphics Invoice #7204 in the amount of \$1,218.49
- The Harvard Press Invoice No. 9574 in the amount of \$96.00
- The Harvard Press Invoice No. 9557 in the amount of \$265.00
- Receipt and Reimbursement Form for Ms. Levison in the amount of \$54.95 for purchase of a Visa gift card for student graphic design volunteer
- Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Invoice No. 2024-109 in the amount of \$7,435.92 for First Quarter FY24 Nursing & Environmental Services