

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
July 25, 2023
Approved: August 8, 2023

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

Others Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health Clerk; Jim Garreffo, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided abbreviated remote meeting instructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider scheduling EDS Trailer clean-out in September

Ms. McCarthy noted receipt of Chief Sicard's preference that the clean-out be scheduled for a Monday or Wednesday afternoon. The Members agreed to ask the Fire Department and Ms. Natoli their preference for scheduling on September 18th, 20th, or 27th, at 1pm.

Review BOH liaison positions

The group reviewed and revised the BOH liaison positions to Town groups and frequent public health issues.

Prepare comments to the ZBA re 40B Comprehensive Permit for the Village at Robin Lane

Mr. Garreffo presented his draft comments based on his review of the Application package. The Board asked Ms. Flynn to finalize the comments and submit them to the ZBA.

Responsibility for monitoring/posting water quality of recreational waters

The BOH discussed whether E. coli results from the Town Beach and beaches of neighboring communities should be posted by the BOH. The Members asked Ms. Flynn to post a weekly News/Announcement of the Harvard Town Beach results but agreed that it is not the responsibility of the HBOH to post the results of other communities' beaches.

Consider response to The Harvard Press article regarding dissolution of Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice

The Members agreed that Ms. Levison will contact The Harvard Press to ask that they revise the online article to include a statement that the dissolution will not affect the Community Nursing Services provided to Harvard.

Report from the DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar (7/25/23)

Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Levison reported on their attendance at the DPH LBOH webinar. Ms. McCarthy noted that Cheryl Sbarra will be presenting regarding conflict of interest at the next webinar, and the next iteration of the COVID vaccine will be available in mid-late September. Ms. Levison indicated there was a presentation at the beginning of the webinar regarding assisting immigrants. Ms. Levison also reported that the Bureau of Environmental Health has been renamed the Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health.

Report from Land Use Boards (LUB) Meeting (7/18/23)

Ms. Flynn provided a summary of her already distributed notes from her attendance at the most recent LUB meeting. She advised that the LUB Department has discussed her attending additional LUB Meetings once the Department has moved to Hildreth House to assist with communication as the Department employees will no longer share one office. The Board was in favor.

Clerk & Health Agent Update, including but not limited to:

- Ms. Flynn reported that Mr. O'Connor would appreciate any comments on her annual Performance Evaluation by Thursday, 7/27. She explained that they intentionally kept her goals for FY24 minimal as there are many required tasks that she already does not have sufficient hours to complete. Ms. Flynn will forward Mr. Mitchell the e-mail with the evaluation attached from Mr. O'Connor.
- Ms. Flynn advised that she circulated the FY25 budget calendar to the Members and noted that the initial budget deadline has been advanced to early October. The Members agreed to discuss the budget beginning in September. Ms. Levison noted that it could also be discussed if an August 29th meeting is scheduled. Ms. Flynn suggested the BOH Members also let her know if they are interested in holding a Strategic Planning Meeting in the fall. Mr. Mitchell agreed to follow-up with Mr. Maiore regarding pursuit of additional Administrative Assistant hours in light of the upcoming budget deadline.
- Status of communication regarding Guido Services, Inc.: Mr. Garreffo indicated that he wrote to the business owner to advise that they are using an unpermitted waste hauler and requesting removal of the dumpster from the property.
- Report of recent Bare Hill Pond testing for algal blooms: Mr. Garreffo stated that the clarity via secchi disc reading is down from 70 inches to approximately 62 inches. He advised that according to Mr. Grossman's graph the fluorometer reading equates to less than 50,000 for cell counts. The group agreed that the protocol indicates that a sample should not be sent to the lab at this time and that the protocol should be followed.

PERMITS

Septic

- Mr. Garreffo indicated that he issued two upgrade permits approved by the Board at the prior meeting, and a permit for 30 Cruft Lane which is an upgrade in full compliance. He noted that the property will also be getting a new well to replace the existing spring house. Mr. Garreffo reminded the Board that the permit for Carlson's Orchard is a replacement of the septic system for the duplex which failed.

OLD BUSINESS

247 Littleton County Road: Further discussion regarding considerations for septic design of upgrade

Ms. Flynn advised that Mr. Ringwall had originally requested the discussion when he last appeared before the Board regarding the property at the end of June and has since postponed the discussion a couple of times. She indicated that he has stated he will be ready to present on August 8th. Mr. Garreffi noted that he has not yet seen a septic plan and believes that the discussion may include questions of whether the Board would allow use of temporary toilets for the event tent location so that they can design a lesser septic system for the facility.

Further consideration of rabies exemption approval process

Ms. Levison stated that her recent experience in being bitten by neighbors' dogs had her re-examining the rabies exemption approval process. She asked that the BOH Members understand that the BOH, and not the vet, has the authority to grant exemption and asked that the BOH ensure that there is thorough documentation from the dogs' vet suggesting exemption is medically necessary/appropriate. Mr. Garreffi noted that the MDAR protocol for bites of a human was included in the meeting preparation packet and is not dependent on the vaccination status of the animal.

Consider revisions to the Bare Hill Pond Algal Bloom Procedures

The Members agreed that Ms. Levison should remain as the BOH liaison. Ms. Levison noted that she has the ability to send out e-subscriber alerts if Ms. Flynn is unavailable.

Further consideration of draft revisions to Article II: Private Wells § 145-18: Water sampling and quality testing requirements

The draft revisions to the water quality section were further reviewed and amended. The group agreed to hold a regulation hearing at the first meeting in September.

Report from Tick Talk (7/11/23)

Ms. Levison reported that while very few people were in attendance, Mr. Donius gave a very nice presentation and Harvard Cable Television (HCT) stated they have high viewership. The group agreed to have student volunteer, Ms. Aloise, revise the draft mosquito/tick outreach mailer to include information about viewing the HCT recording.

Update re installing the dial/algae sign on Pond Road

Mr. Mitchell reported that he will meet with Mr. Kilhart to discuss the location and installation of the sign kiosk. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Kilhart voiced concerns with proposed Location #1 because of the presence of underground utilities and because it is a location used to deposit snow when plowing. Ms. Flynn noted that Ms. Allard will also need to review the location on behalf of ConCom because of its proximity to the Pond and confirmed that the Select Board approved installation on Pond Road, not specific to proposed Location #1 or #2. Ms. Levison stated that if Location #2 is chosen, it will require approval by Mr. O'Shea. The group agreed that while the kiosk is being installed, the dial should be returned to the existing kiosk. Mr. Mitchell will reach out to Mr. O'Shea to loop him in.

(Mr. Garreffi exited the meeting at approximately 5:20pm)

Update re installation of satellite phone bases at EDS and Public Safety Buildings

Ms. Levison advised that she purchased the wood to build the box to contain the base station at the Schools.

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

Ms. Levison stated that she had a follow-up conversation with Mr. Kilhart. She indicated that she plans to continue the discussion via e-mail.

PFAS: Update

Ms. Levison reported on her attendance at the PFAS forum held by the People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment. She stated that much of the forum was focused on public water supplies, and that Senator Eldridge and Representative Sena presented on proposed legislation that would restrict PFAS activities including in food packaging, personal products, and car seats. Ms. Levison noted that the next RAB meeting is scheduled for August 31st.

Drought status

Ms. Levison noted that the State declared the drought is over.

Action Items

Ms. Flynn will circulate an updated list of action items. Ms. McCarthy reported that she spoke to the Lexington Director of Public Health regarding their use of opioid funds and learned that Towns must vote to accept the funds.

MINUTES

The Members reviewed the proposed revisions to the draft Minutes of July 11, 2023. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Minutes of 7/11/23; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn at 5:34 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 7/11/23
- Draft comments to the ZBA regarding The Village at Robin Lane
- Draft revisions to the Private Wells, water quality regulation
- Liaison and meeting assignments spreadsheet
- A. Flynn notes from 7/18/23 LUB Meeting