

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
October 3, 2023
Approved: October 24, 2023

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

Others Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health Clerk; Jim Garreffi, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press; Nick Pauling, GPR.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. as deputized Chair. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions. Ms. McCarthy was absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

25 Park Lane: Consider remedial use and local upgrade approvals requests, as well as variances from the Harvard Board of Health's Sanitation regulation

Mr. Garreffi observed soil testing at the property in connection with the replacement of its failed system. Mr. Pauling stated that the proposed plan is for installation of a Geomat system, an innovative/alternative system. He explained that he is asking for the remedial use approvals for reduction in groundwater offset and reduction in the natural occurring pervious materials. He stated that the ground was too saturated while onsite to perform a perc test, so he is requesting for local approval to use sieve analysis and for a reduction in the offset to the inlets to the tank to try to use the existing plumbing in the house. Mr. Pauling explained that while the lot is 1.5 acres, the location of the existing well limits the design options on the property. Mr. Pauling indicated that the requests for variances from the local regulations are related to the fact that the ground would not perc. Mr. Garreffi indicated that he has no issue with the requests. He confirmed that the location of the well is pushing the design to the front of the house where there is also a steep slope to consider. Mr. Garreffi indicated that it makes sense to allow the offset down to 1 inch from the inlets to the groundwater in order to use the existing plumbing and because of safeguards designed into the newer monolithic tanks and rubber boots which create a good, watertight seal.

Ms. Levison made a motion that the BOH approve the six requests by GPR for the house at 25 Park Lane in Harvard as detailed in their letter of September 21st; Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Consider response to B. Leicher letter to Select Board regarding synthetic turf and preparation of handout for Town Meeting

Ms. Levison volunteered to prepare a draft BOH response letter agreeing with Mr. Leicher's points and raising two additional concerns. The BOH Members agreed that a handout addressing turf concerns at Town Meeting is not needed at this time.

Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked for the BOH's final approval on Ms. Levison's revisions to the proposed stable permit insert for the January tax bill. The Members agreed that the revisions were consistent with prior discussions. Ms. Flynn will send the insert to Ms. Doucet with a request for the Select Board to consider it at an upcoming meeting. The Members asked that she advise them of the date so that one of them can attend to answer any questions.
- Mr. Garreffo noted that Ms. Levison met with him to work on the water quality requirement flow chart. Ms. Flynn indicated that she penciled its review into the October 24th Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Review draft ad for the townwide edition of The Harvard Press (10/20/23)

This item was taken out of order to allow for Mr. Garreffo's input. The group reviewed and offered comments on the draft "Who You Gonna Call?" ad. Ms. Levison will revise the draft as discussed and submit to The Harvard Press.

PFAS: Update, including but not limited to report from Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting and participation in stakeholder interview (both 8/31/23), and report from attendance at hearing of 9/27/23

Mr. Mitchell suggested all PFAS updates be tabled until a meeting when Ms. McCarthy is present; Ms. Levison asked for a brief update regarding Mr. Mitchell's attendance at the Joint Commission hearing. Mr. Mitchell indicated that he forwarded his notes and a video of his testimony to Ms. Flynn, who circulated it to the group. Mr. Mitchell indicated that there were several different Acts being discussed regarding water quality; his testimony was in favor of the Act relating to PFAS. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the panel was incredibly well prepared, and the testimony went well. He indicated that the Joint Commission Chair was most concerned with the costs for remediation.

Mr. Garreffo exited the meeting at approximately 4:33pm.

Review draft handout for Fall Town Meeting (10/21/23)

The BOH reviewed and revised the draft handout. Ms. Flynn will submit the handout to the Moderator for approval. The Members asked that she consider how many copies of handouts other groups are preparing before printing the same on white paper.

Review draft townwide mailing in support of mandatory recycling

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Continued discussion regarding scheduling the EDS trailer cleanout

Ms. Flynn indicated that she did not hear back from the Fire Department and Ms. Natoli in response to her request for additional dates of availability. Mr. Mitchell indicated that he would follow-up at an upcoming joint Fire/Ambulance Department meeting.

FY25 Budget: Review and approve draft budget submission (due 10/6/23 at 10am)

The BOH reviewed and revised the draft budget submission. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to

approve the budget submission as reviewed and edited tonight in order to submit to meet the October 6th deadline; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Levison agreed to forward Ms. Flynn the documents once she incorporates the revisions for Ms. Flynn's submittal to the Finance Director.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Levison made a motion to adjourn at 5:19 pm; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Posted Agenda
- 25 Park: GPR request letter, proposed plan, and LU Conditions form
- Bruce Leicher letter to Select Board re artificial turf
- Draft stable permit insert for the January tax bill
- Draft FY25 budget submission