

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
November 14, 2023
Approved: November 29, 2023

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

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 approximately 4:02 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions and acknowledged that Board Member Chris Mitchell was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider request of MassRecycle for endorsement of Massachusetts Product Stewardship Legislation

The BOH Members agreed to table this discussion until they have the opportunity to review the associated proposed legislation. Ms. Flynn will recirculate this information in preparation for the next meeting.

Initial discussion regarding preparation of Annual Town Report contribution

Ms. Levison volunteered to prepare a first draft of the BOH's contribution to the Annual Town Report. Ms. Flynn will circulate her list of any events or meetings that the BOH Members attended or participated in and reported upon at a BOH Meeting; Ms. Levison asked for Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy's comments regarding anything missing by December 15th. Ms. McCarthy agreed to prepare a few sentences about her participation in the HCIC. Ms. Levison will include the BOH's preparation of ads, drought articles for the Press, and outreach mailings, as well as Mr. Mitchell's application for a grant for outreach on Stroke. The Board Members suggested photographs from the PFAS forum be submitted.

Consider application for Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund grant

Ms. Levison stated that she believes Mr. Mitchell may suggest the BOH apply for a grant in collaboration with the Ambulance Service, but she wanted to be sure this would not be stepping on NABH's toes. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he does not believe NABH has applied for or received grant funds from Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund in the past. Ms. Levison suggested the NABH could apply for subsidized tick testing for all the NABH communities and/or funding to sample additional locations in Bare Hill Pond for harmful algal blooms. Ms. McCarthy responded that a grant for additional sampling of Bare Hill Pond would have to be in conjunction with the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Committee (Pond Committee) and may not be consistent with the Fund's definition of public health. Ms. Levison will first reach out to the Pond Committee to see their level

of interest before contacting the Fund to see if it meets their definition. Mr. Garreffo indicated he never received feedback on whether the prior tick testing subsidy was utilized; Ms. Levison indicated that she will reach out to TickReport to request this information.

Review draft flow chart regarding water quality requirements

Ms. Levison indicated that she has not yet had the opportunity to work on the flow chart.

Annual review Bare Hill Pond Algal Bloom Protocol, including but not limited to:

The BOH Members considered revisions to the advisory templates. Ms. Levison agreed to revise the templates consistent with the discussion and water quality alert used during the 2023 testing season. The Members agreed that a combined alert when E. coli and algal bloom findings are safe is appropriate, but not when there are any concerning findings. Ms. Flynn will update the protocols to include Ms. McWaters' contact information and ensure that references to MA DPH are consistent.

Prepare answers to FinCom budget questions

The BOH Members discussed responses to the budget questions received. Ms. Flynn explained that she recently learned from the Town Administrator that Town Counsel advised him that the BOH can set a fee for stable permit applications outside of Town Meeting. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he is aware of other towns which collect a stable permit fee. Ms. Levison agreed to prepare an initial draft of responses discussed for input prior to an additional meeting scheduled to approve the answers on November 17th.

Report from MassDEP webinar regarding improving recycling websites (10/24/23)

Ms. Flynn reported on her review of the DEP webinar. Ms. McCarthy asked her to research more about the "recyclopedia" widget discussed and report back. Ms. Levison indicated that she liked that one town always includes an insert in the tax bill reminding residents to sign up for e-alerts. The Members asked Ms. Flynn to see whether such a reminder can be added to the stable permit application insert approved for the January tax bill.

Report from Land Use Boards meeting (11/14/23)

Mr. Garreffo reported on his attendance at the meeting. He indicated topics of discussion included the Land Use Boards (LUB) move to Hildreth House, concerns moving forward with the Stretch, Specialized and Energy Codes, draft bylaw revisions and Ayer Road Visioning Report from the Planning Board, status of the Village at Robin Lane proposed project, an update of the drop-and-ride test program run by the Transportation Committee, and the Conservation Commission's status on permitting the Fire Department's use of the Fire Ponds. Ms. Flynn noted that while she did not attend, she received feedback after the meeting that the group would like to see a BOH Member return to attending the meetings. Ms. McCarthy stated she will attend but will advocate for the meetings to be held via Zoom.

Report from recent DPH LBOH webinars

Ms. McCarthy stated that there have not been any webinars since the last BOH meeting.

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

- Ms. Flynn and Ms. McCarthy asked Ms. Levison to consider the e-mail Ms. McCarthy

received from Worcester Regional Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Coordinator, Lois Luniewicz, offering assistance with emergency preparedness outreach. The Members asked that Ms. Flynn invite Ms. Luniewicz to an upcoming meeting for a ten-minute discussion regarding collaboration opportunities; she will copy Ms. Natoli as CERT Director.

- Mr. Garreffo asked the Members to consider revising the title of the sample “Restrictive Covenant” regarding water treatment. He indicated that the current title is not completely accurate, as having water treatment is not a restriction on use, and overly negative. The Board Members agreed. Ms. Flynn will revise the sample to be titled “Deed Notice”.
- Mr. Garreffo reported that he is currently addressing a housing issue in conjunction with the Fire Department and Counsel on Aging. He indicated that the Fire Department initially turned off the heat and water due to flooding from a toilet in the basement. He said his inclination is to work with the property owner to get both back on to avoid condemnation; the BOH Members agreed.

PERMITS

Review of septic permits recently issued by the Health Agent

Mr. Garreffo reported on his issuance of the following septic permits:

- 74 Ayer Road: An upgrade of an existing system for which local upgrade approvals and variances were approved by the Board at the meeting of 8/8/23
- 15 Under Pin Hill Road: An upgrade of an existing system for which local upgrade approvals and variances were approved by the Board at the meeting of 10/24/23
- 67 Still River Road: An upgrade of an existing system for which local upgrade approvals and variances were approved by the Board at the meeting of 10/24/23

Mr. Garreffo exited the meeting at approximately 5:37 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Review draft response to B. Leicher letter to Select Board regarding synthetic turf

Ms. Levison indicated that she has not had the opportunity to work on this draft.

Review draft townwide mailing in support of mandatory recycling

Ms. Levison indicated that she sent the draft text approved at the last meeting to Ms. Aloise for preparation of graphics. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she was happy to see that the BOH has received guidance on how to pay Ms. Aloise for her services.

Approve design of banner for outreach events

Ms. Levison indicated that she has not had an opportunity to prepare a design. Ms. McCarthy indicated that as there are no events on the horizon, a design can be approved in February in advance of Spring Town Meeting.

COVID-19 Update, including consideration of MDPH’s request for Fall outreach actions

The Board Members asked Ms. Flynn to order new flu brochures and posters recently redesigned

by the Department of Public Health and to recycle her existing copies. The Board Members also asked that Ms. Flynn send out a News/Announcement asking residents to consider getting their flu and COVID shots now and be fully vaccinated before you see family at the end of December.

PFAS Update, including but not limited to report from attendance at the Devens RAB Meeting of 11/9/23

This item was passed over.

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

Ms. Levison indicated she has no update on this item.

Action Items

Ms. Flynn indicated that she would circulate any outstanding Action Items.

MINUTES

The Members considered Ms. Levison's comments on the draft Minutes of 10/24/23. Ms. Levison made a motion to accept the draft Minutes of 10/23/24 as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Levison made a motion to adjourn at 5:50 pm; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 10/24/23
- Action Items from 10/24/23
- Budget questions e-mailed by J. Mullane (11/14/23)
- Algal bloom protocols and advisory templates
- Water quality news/announcement posted for the week of 8/21/23
- LL e-mail re consideration of additional HAB sampling (9/21/23)
- A. Flynn notes re DEP webinar "Improve Your Website"
- Webpages (2) re grant opportunities with CF of North Central MA
- DPH letter re recommended Fall COVID outreach actions
- FY24 BOH Spending spreadsheet

- MassRecycle email and Google form for endorsement of EPR legislation (10/26/23)
- Harvard's sample "Restrictive Covenant" re water treatment
- Annual Town Report Memorandum from J. Doucet