

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Emergency Meeting via Telephone
December 30, 2023
Approved: January 22, 2024

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

Others Attending: None.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr Mitchell called Ms. Levison at 11:20am

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss water advisory distributed to Foxglove tenants

Ms Levison told Mr Mitchell that she received a phone call at 11:15am on Saturday from a resident at Foxglove Apartments (elderly and low-income housing) telling her that Foxglove residents were informed Friday that the drinking water tested high for arsenic (sample date 12/19/23). The resident asked if they could use the water and said that he hadn't been given bottled water. Ms Levison told the resident she would research and get back to him. Ms. Levison then reached out to Ms McCarthy, Mr Mitchell and Health Agent Jim Garreffi by text; Mr Mitchell called back at 11:20am.

Ms Levison and Mr Mitchell discussed the situation; DEP recommends not drinking the water with an exceedance of arsenic so they decided that Mr Mitchell would call the management company and the building manager to be sure the residents had the best information regarding the water test results. In the process they learned there is a new building manager at Foxglove; Debbie Thompson of the COA was able to provide the manager's phone number. The building manager confirmed there was bottled water in the building lobby; Mr Mitchell reminded the building manager not all residents can carry gallons of water. Mr Mitchell and Ms Levison (with Ms McCarthy and Mr Garreffi copied) exchanged a couple additional text messages (phone number of building manager; confirmation that Mr Mitchell spoke to building manager).

Mr Garreffi replied around noon, confirming that he would follow up with the property manager and the water operator on Tuesday. The issue was stabilized by 12:15pm. Ms Levison tried to leave a message for the resident but couldn't (no voicemail). The resident called Ms Levison again at 3pm to confirm that 2 gallons of water were delivered to his apartment and to thank the Board of Health for their assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Levison, member

Documents Referenced:

- None

