

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
**Approved: June 16, 2020**

*Board of Health Members present:* Sharon McCarthy; Tom Philippou, Chair; Libby Levison.

*Attending:* Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BOH”) Clerk; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

Mr. Philippou called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the BOH Remote Meeting Preamble, including Confirmation of Member Access, the Introduction to Remote Meeting, and Meeting Business Ground Rules.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Ms. Eliyesil asked that the BOH explain how the process of approval for outdoor seating at restaurants is different, if at all, during COVID-19. Mr. Grossman indicated that there is no real difference. He stated that because of COVID-19 there are guidelines that ask for single use or online menus, place settings set after patrons are seated, and other changes. Mr. Grossman indicated a new approval requires review of a sketch plan of the proposed layout, and reiterated that the approval for the total number of seats will not change specifically, can not increase.

Ms. Levison advised that she received a letter from a law firm consortium soliciting clients for a class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of products containing PFAS. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Philippou stated they did not receive the letter.

Ms. Levison reported that she learned that H. 4650 regarding arbovirus mitigation has been revised in the form of H. 4751, and lists some protections not previously included. She suggested the members review the bill.

Ms. Levison reported that the elevator at Bowers Brook was broken over the weekend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Update from the Emergency Management Team (“EMT”)- Ms. Levison reported that the playing fields are currently closed; Mr. Grossman added that this would be discussed with Parks and Recreation on the following day. Ms. Levison also reported that the BOH members may be able to be tested at the Foxboro site for First Responders and Town Employees, if necessary. She stated that the school nurses are no longer taking temperatures of the construction workers onsite, and that the library opened for curbside pickup. Ms. Levison also indicated that she and Mr. Grossman spent some time clarifying for Mr. Bragan how contact tracing is being staffed at this time.

b. Prepare request to the Select Board to define the approval process for outdoor food service- Mr. Grossman advised that the Select Board has the authority to grant approval for outdoor seating on public property and the landlord has the same authority on private property. In both circumstances, the BOH will approve and enforce the total number of seats. Mr. Grossman will e-mail Mr. Bragan to request consultation, including review of a sketch plan of proposed seating, with the BOH if the Select Board is considering approving outdoor seating at the Harvard General Store.

c. Clerk & Health Agent Update- Mr. Grossman and Ms. Flynn reported all updates would be covered under agenda items.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Continued discussion regarding COVID-19 response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's COVID-19 Orders- Ms. Levison noted that a DPH call addressed guidelines for outdoor fitness, and asked whether the BOH is aware if such classes will be offered in Harvard. The BOH members agreed that preapproval is not required, but that the BOH will become involved if the business reaches out for guidance interpretation or the BOH receives complaints regarding compliance.

b. Continued discussion regarding additional NABH costs due to COVID-19- Ms. Levison and Mr. Grossman reported on their discussion with Mr. Bragan about requesting CARES Act funds for the NABH nurses providing contact tracing. Mr. Grossman will follow-up with Mr. Garreffo to identify whether the letter sent by Mr. Philippou on June 4th to the Select Board requesting \$8437.85 for NABH nursing services be included in the Town's CARES Act request was sufficient. Mr. Grossman indicated that he believes that NABH received the first round of funding expected from the State, but did not receive the second. He further explained that he believes that by August, the requested funds will be needed in order for NABH to continue contact tracing. Mr. Grossman will follow-up to see whether CTC could take over some contact tracing if the necessary funding is not received by NABH. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to support the request for NABH for the Town to pursue funding in the amount of \$8437.85 for the nurses supporting contact tracing for COVID-19; Ms. Levison seconded. Ms. Levison made a friendly amendment that the BOH request Town Administration apply for funds under the CARES Act for additional costs incurred by NABH on behalf of the Town and its residents through the BOH as outlined in Mr. Garreffo's letter dated June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the sum of \$8,437.85. All were in favor by roll call.

c. Continued discussion regarding recommendations for Annual Town Meeting- The BOH members agreed Mr. Philippou will write the Town Moderator with continued recommendations, including that the Town provides disinfecting wipes and a trash can for the microphone, to be supervised by the BOH, placement of liquid sanitizer stations, a wellness attestation at check-in, and the requirement for all to wear masks or be separated if contraindicated. Ms. McCarthy made the motion that all residents at Town Meeting wear a mask unless they have a medical exemption and then must sit in a separate area; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Levison noted that DPH calls have included that some Towns are providing pens to all attendees; the BOH members did not think this was necessary for Harvard. Ms. Levison also stated that she learned that legislature voted last week that Open Town Meeting can have a reduced quorum of not less than 10% but has to be announced in advance.

d. 23 Lovers Lane: Update re status of progress on action items discussed at the condemnation hearing of 9/24/19- The BOH members reviewed and discussed the e-mailed update received from Ms. Thomsen. Ms. Levison made the motion to continue the hearing for one month; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Flynn will schedule the hearing for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

e. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed. The members requested Ms. Flynn post the DPH yard sale guidelines to the BOH page. Ms. Levison agreed to post a link to the same on NextDoor Harvard and prepare a letter to The Harvard Press. Ms. Levison reported that she and Mr. Grossman forgot to discuss signage at Prospect Hill Overlook with the EMT. Mr. Philippou indicated that he drove by the Prospect Hill Overlook at sunset and people seemed to be contained to their own groups.

**PERMITS**- There were no permit applications reviewed.

**MINUTES**- The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft minutes of 6/2/20. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to approve the 6/2/20 minutes as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**- Items for the next agenda were discussed. The members agreed that the BOH will need to meet next Tuesday, but indicated that they may skip a meeting on 6/23/20 if possible. IG suggests they go back to their normal schedule.

**ADJOURNMENT**- Ms. McCarthy made the motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.; Ms. Levison seconded. All members were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

**Documents Referenced:**

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 6/2/20