

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Approved: September 22, 2020

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

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

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the Remote Meeting Preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. McCarthy confirmed for Ms. Eliyesil that the sampling performed on the Pond today was done by a State contractor at no cost to the Town, and that the “no contact” order was to stay in effect at least until the results were received. Further, Ms. McCarthy added that the sampling was performed because the Pond’s clarity had improved and because the State reviewed the results of the sampling obtained by Mr. Leicher.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review Planning Board’s draft 2020 Master Plan Action Plan re Board of Health recommendations- The BOH members reviewed and revised a draft update to the 2020 Master Plan Action Plan provided to Ms. Levison by Planning Board Member, Jane Biering. Ms. Flynn will send the revisions to Ms. Biering.

b. Update from Deer Management Subcommittee (“DMS”): Minutes review- Ms. Levison reported that in reviewing the last three sets of Minutes she learned that the DMS has completed the first round of qualifications for the hunters, have qualified approximately thirty hunters, and will not have to assign hunters to lands because they self-regulate and social distance. Ms. Levison will request the Referenced Documents associated with the Minutes in order to fully understand the rest of the discussions.

c. Update from Emergency Board of Health Meeting of 8/28/20- Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy reported that they held an emergency meeting via telephone upon Mr. Grossman’s report that there was an observed increase in algae in Bare Hill Pond. They decided to follow Mr. Grossman’s recommendation to increase the advisory to “no contact” and Ms. Levison hung signs. Ms. Levison alerted Harbor Master, Bob O’Shea that she was putting up signs, and learned that large signs had already been put up indicating “No swimming per the BOH”. Ms. McCarthy suggested the next budget should include additional large signs to have on hand in the event that future “no contact” orders are necessary. Ms. Levison asked for more communication in the future. All were in agreement to err on the side of redundancy.

d. Update from participation in Select Board meeting & discussion on algal bloom and future planning- Ms. McCarthy reported that she and Mr. Grossman will participate in a working group with Ms. Von Loesecke, Mr. Leicher, and Mr. O'Shea to establish protocols for sharing information, determining when sampling should be done, and budgeting for the same in the event of future algae blooms at the Pond. Mr. Grossman stated that there needs to be very clear lines of communication established, especially as a visual report of a bloom will always be the first indication of a bloom, and suggested advisory signs be prepared in advance of the next potential bloom. The Members acknowledged that while sufficient notice and posting was provided, Harvard residents crave information and the BOH will attempt to provide more information at the time of the next bloom. The members further acknowledged that Harvard will likely want to test right away the next time a bloom is observed. Ms. McCarthy stated the working group will work to identify how many samplings should be budgeted in the next year. Mr. Grossman advised that the State contractor sampled earlier in the day at the Town Beach and Thurston's Cove, and expected results within 1-2 weeks. Mr. Grossman also stated that the visual observation at sampling was with marked improvement; 3-4 feet. Ms. Levison suggested that it might be prudent to include a few Pond residents in the working group; Ms. McCarthy will suggest this to Ms. Von Loesecke.

Mr. Grossman confirmed he was advised that the sampling taken by the DPH, if within limits, can be considered the second sample for reopening.

e. Update from School Reopening Task Force- Ms. McCarthy advised there are no updates from the Task Force, and this item can be taken off the agenda.

f. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls- Ms. Levison provided the BOH members with a report from the Friday conference call including updates on the messaging campaign, initial correspondence from the federal government to the local boards of health regarding preparation for COVID-19 vaccination distribution, updates on contact tracing staffing, and testing processes for assisted living facilities mandated by the federal government. Ms. Levison also reported that the Tuesday conference call included that DESE will advise whether students can share textbooks, DPH will advise whether students can wear gaiters, DPH is providing support to private, non-residential schools in the form of guidance v. requirements, and that DPH will provide guidelines regarding Halloween. Ms. Levison also reported that other groups working in places of worship must limit numbers to 25; Towns cannot have less strict guidance than the state, but can make rules more stringent. She also learned a large party can be issued simultaneous fines for violations of the orders for limitations on gatherings, not following mask guidance, and for causing a public nuisance.

g. Update from the Emergency Response Team- Mr. Grossman and Ms. Levison indicated no report was necessary as the EMT has not met since the last BOH meeting.

h. Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn requested approval of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health 2nd Quarter invoice in the amount of \$6,731.92. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve payment of the invoice; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn reminded the BOH members that the second GIS information session would be held the next day. Ms. Flynn suggested that her workload was too heavy to attend; Mr. Mitchell indicated he would try to make it.

- Mr. Grossman reported that he and Ms. Braley responded to concerns of non-compliance with COVID-19 guidelines by businesses in town. Mr. Grossman indicated that the responses from the businesses to their outreach have been positive.

OLD BUSINESS

a. 23 Lovers Lane: Continued hearing of 9/24/19- The BOH members reviewed Ms. Thomsen's e-mailed update regarding the status of her progress in addressing the items identified by the BOH. Ms. Levison made the motion to continue the hearing until October 27th; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

b COVID-19: Continued response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's Orders and MA guidelines- The BOH members agreed additional discussion was not needed on this topic.

c. PFAS testing, status of DEP MCL and updating water quality requirements to include PFAS testing- Ms. Flynn confirmed that results have not yet been received for the sampling of the municipal well on the Ryan Land. The BOH members reviewed a draft policy requiring PFAS testing of wells at certain addresses at the time of sale or construction. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that the addresses included make sense based on the maps provided by the Army reflecting positive PFAS results, and asked the members if there were other known locations that should be included. Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy indicated that no others were mentioned in the RABB meetings. Ms. McCarthy stated that there are about 6-7 identified source areas. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept Policy1-2020 as presented; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Flynn will post the policy to the BOH webpage, sending out an e-mail alert to e-subscribers, enclose a copy to all brokers with active Harvard listings, and e-mail a copy to Safewell; Mr. Grossman will provide Nashoba Analytical with a copy.

d. Transfer Station Committee: Status of participation- Ms. McCarthy indicated that she has not yet followed up with Ms. Von Loesecke. Mr. Grossman advised that he believes the composting program beginning in Groton will accept items from other towns. Ms. Levison stated she will reach out to Ms. Biering to see whether the current Planning Board is interested in identifying a location in Harvard that could be used for yard waste chipping.

e. Discuss arbovirus awareness- The members discussed the current status, including that a 4th human case of EEE has been diagnosed in Plymouth..

f. Discuss drought status awareness- Mr. Mitchell confirmed that there has not been a change in status posted to the state website, and that the current status reflects recommendations for restrictions in use which are not requirements. Mr. Mitchell will continue to check the status and will make a recommendation to the BOH if there needs to be a change in recommendations.

g. Discuss RCAP Solutions North Central MA Private Well Program- Mr. Grossman indicated he did not learn anything more about this program.

h. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed. Mr. Grossman reported that he spoke to Bob Douglas as discussed at the last meeting, and Mr. Douglas stated he will to speak with the UMASS Lab. of Medical Zoology and communicate any results obtained to the BOH.

PERMITS- The BOH members reviewed a septic permit application and plan for an upgrade in full compliance of Title 5 at 96 Old Mill Road. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit as submitted; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Levison stated she observed dumpsters of an unpermitted hauler, United Materials Management, in Town. Ms. Flynn will follow-up with UMM to request a hauler permit application.

MINUTES

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of August 25, 2020. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of August 28, 2020. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of September 2, 2020. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA- Items for the next agenda were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 8:26 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 8/25, 8/28, and 9/2/20
- Draft master plan update re BOH
- 23 Lovers Lane: E-mailed communications of 9/8/12
- Draft policy re PFAS testing
- NABH 2nd Quarter invoice
- 96 Old Mill Road: Septic permit, permit application, and proposed plan