

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Approved: November 10, 2020

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

Attending (including but not limited to): Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Alison Flynn, Clerk, Harvard Board of Health (“BOH”); Rick Sicard, Fire Chief; Pat Natoli, CERT Director; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press; Tony Svarczkopf, Homeowner, 16A South Shaker Road; Mark O’Hagan, Craftsman Village Harvard LLC; Scott Murray, Murray Excavating.

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

Ms. Flynn read aloud the Remote Meeting Preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT- There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion re preparing for an outdoor Emergency Dispensing Site and equipment needed- Mr. Grossman and Chief Sicard asked the BOH members to consider whether additional equipment is needed in the event that Harvard is asked to prepare a drive-through Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) for purposes of vaccination. Chief Sicard said it is currently unknown whether Towns will be asked to assist in administering COVID vaccinations. Mr. Mitchell stated that he was advised by Harvard Ambulance Director, Jason Cotting, that the EMS would need a waiver from the Medical Director in order to administer the COVID vaccine, but would be available to assist with organization and medical record keeping if a waiver was not provided. Chief Sicard stated he feels Harvard has an adequate supply of cones and barricades to set up a drive-through EDS. Ms. Levison stated that in addition to a cold chain, a drive-through EDS would need to obtain a sufficient number of two-way radios, pop-up tents, and possibly digital tablets, but believed enough tables and chairs could be borrowed from existing Harvard municipal supplies. Mr. Grossman reminded the BOH members that regional assets might be available at the time of set up, but suggested that a request of Region 2 for at least pop-up tents be submitted at this time. Chief Sicard agreed to e-mail Mr. Grossman his thoughts on how many pop-up tents would be needed. Mr. Grossman volunteered to research which software might be necessary for onsite record keeping. Ms. Natoli offered that in her experience with EDS setups in other Towns she has found working on paper that can be scanned onsite moves the line much quicker than electronic data entry which can be dependent on spotty service. Chief Sicard confirmed that he and Chief Denmark have hotspots that can be used for emergency preparedness. It was also agreed that Mr. Grossman will reach out to the Police, Fire, Schools, Public Works Departments to schedule a virtual meeting with the BoH to be held in December at the latest to discuss a drive-through EDS plan and the equipment and facilities potentially needed.

b. Prepare response to Devens Community Involvement Plan (due 11/9/20)- Mr. Mitchell reported that he reviewed the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and provided the BOH members with an overview of the same. He suggested comments to the Army include

verification of the correct contact information for the HBOH, as well as the inclusion of a HBOH member on the revised Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Mr. Mitchell offered to sit on the RAB should a HBOH member be included. Mr. Mitchell will submit the comments to the Army or its contractor.

c. Discussion of drought survey- Ms. McCarthy stated that the survey from the Department of Public Health asks whether the drought has impacted Harvard wells. Ms. Flynn advised that she has not been contacted by any residents reporting impact. Mr. Grossman added that he has also not been contacted for any emergency well permits which would be necessary if a well ran dry. Ms. Levison stated that she saw a Harvard resident's posting to NextDoor that her well changed color, but the water cleared after a couple of days.

d. Report from All Boards Meeting (10/14/20)- Ms. McCarthy reported on her attendance at the All Boards Meeting, and reviewed the budget deadlines. Ms. Levison volunteered to prepare the budget and narrative. Ms. McCarthy stated that a level-funded budget and a disaster budget reflecting 5% less is requested. Ms. McCarthy will contact Ms. von Loesecke to further discuss where requested funding for algae testing should appear. Ms. Levison reminded the BOH members that it is expected that the population-based fees of NABH and Minuteman Services will increase in accordance with the 2020 Census results. The members agreed to discuss at the next meeting items for the next budget.

e. Update from Deer Management Subcommittee: Minutes review- Ms. Levison reported that though she has not had the opportunity to review additional minutes, she is aware from e-mailed correspondence that bow hunting began on October 19th and a "Meet the Archery Hunters" event is being organized.

f. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls- Ms. McCarthy reported on discussions regarding ice rink closings in MA, NH, VT, and the EEA efforts to work with ski areas on guidelines. Ms. McCarthy also volunteered to review Dr. Katie Brown's slides regarding school protocols to ensure Harvard's policies are consistent.

g. Update from the Emergency Response Team- Ms. Levison reported that messaging during power outages was discussed with the ERT. Ms. McCarthy confirmed that she encouraged Dr. Dwight to sign up for rapid response mobile testing for the schools, as participating gives the school nurses more control of the testing. Ms. McCarthy also stated that the parent activist group is still lobbying to pursue Mirius testing.

h. Clerk and Health Agent Update- Ms. Flynn requested the day off on 11/3/20; the members agreed. Mr. Grossman did not have any updates.

OLD BUSINESS

a. 23 Lovers Lane: Continued hearing of 9/24/19- The members considered the homeowner's written update of 10/26/20. Ms. Levison made a motion to continue the hearing until December 8, 2020; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

b. 16A South Shaker Road: Status of compliance with Private Well regulation- The members considered the three water quality reports submitted by homeowner, Mr. Svarckopf, and discussed status of compliance. Mr. Svarckopf asked the members reconsider their requirement for resampling and testing by an approved sampler and DEP-approved lab which

does not include a disclaimer on their report, and accept the submitted reports as complete. Further, Mr. Svarckopf stated that an arsenic deed notice would be recorded shortly in compliance with the regulation, and asked that the language of the sample be softened to a notification instead of a restriction; Mr. Grossman agreed. Mr. Svarckopf advised that he intends to have his water quality sampled on a yearly basis. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to accept the data as presented with the understanding the BOH will see results from a DEP-approved lab consistent with the required change of ownership data set within the next year or so; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

c. Transfer Station Committee: Status of participation- Ms. McCarthy indicated she has not heard from Ms. von Loesecke regarding status of the Transfer Station Committee. Ms. Levison reported that Mr. Kilhart replied via e-mail that he does not believe a swap-shop at the Transfer Station is safely possible at this time.

d. Craftsman Village Harvard: Update re: soils management- Mr. Grossman reported that the response from DEP and updated plans from Craftsman Village Harvard have addressed all outstanding questions. Mr. Mitchell stated that he is now comfortable with the plans as outlined. Mr. O'Hagan asked whether the BOH would consider lifting the Stop Work Order previously imposed and indicated that he will still need to meet with the Zoning Board of Appeals before work will commence. Mr. Grossman advised that while Conservation Commission still has an outstanding issue, he believes the BOH can lift the order. Ms. Levison made a motion to lift the stop order concerning soils at Craftsman Village Harvard; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

e. Update on algal bloom testing and future planning- Ms. McCarthy reported she reviewed Mr. Grossman's draft protocol for algae assessment, flow of information, testing, and signage, and will share the draft with the members at the next meeting. Ms. McCarthy stated she intends to reach out to Ms. von Loesecke to discuss budgeting for the testing. Mr. Grossman advised that it's appropriate that the budget be in the BOH's control, as the BOH is responsible for the quality and frequency of testing, as well as the gathering and disseminating of information regarding results. It was also discussed that Ms. Flynn and Mr. Grossman will write the Clinton Shores and Willard Shores Associations to inform them of the BOH's intention to continually assess for blue green algae, and advise of their obligations as semi-public beaches to be permitted, act as beach operator, submit an approved sampling plan, and collect samples (or hire a contractor to sample), and report the results to the BOH. Mr. Grossman confirmed that the NABH will not collect samples for the associations unless NABH is hired and contracted separately to do so.

f. Continued discussion re Halloween events- Ms. McCarthy stated that she will reach out to the Fire Chief regarding status of the CodeRed message. Ms. Levison noted that she read fewer than 10 MA towns have cancelled Halloween.

g. COVID-19: Continued response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's Orders and MA guidelines- Mr. Mitchell noted that the concern with hockey is related to the structure of the rinks keeping the particles at face level, and that ski mountains are working within the guidelines to ensure they will be able to open.

h. Discuss drought status awareness- Mr. Mitchell offered to look for sources of drought data other than from the State, and will make a recommendation to the BOH.

i. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed.

PERMITS

- 277 Stow Road- Mr. Grossman indicated that he has no objections to the requests and variances for this Local Upgrade Approval, and that the Conservation Commission has already issued an Order of Compliance. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the upgrade request as submitted for Plan L-14122 and request letter of September 16, 2020; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 88 East Bare Hill Road- Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit for distribution box as submitted; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 108 Pinnacle Road- Mr. Grossman indicated this application requires no variances aside from the well variance previously approved by the BOH. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit for a system as submitted on Plan L-13328, revised 9/29/2020; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 111 & 113 Clinton Shore Drive, Units 25 & 29- Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit as submitted; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 117 & 119 Clinton Shore Drive, Units 31 & 33- Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit as submitted for replacement of the leach field; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 157 Bolton Road- Mr. Grossman stated he has no issues with the requested variances for replacement of this failed system. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit as submitted on Plan 20-060PD; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 168 Bolton Road- Mr. Grossman advised this permit is for a new 6-bedroom system in full compliance. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit as submitted for Plan L14092; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Poor Farm Road- Mr. Grossman advised this permit is for a new 5-bedroom system in full compliance. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit as submitted for Plan 13233; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- 21 & 23 Sherry Road- Ms. Flynn advised that Mr. Grossman issued a 10-day emergency beaver permit for this private property.
- United Material Management (UMM)- Ms. Flynn updated the BOH Members on status of permitting this new waste hauler. She will continue to follow-up with compliance, and invite UMM to a meeting discussion if necessary.

MINUTES

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of October 13, 2020. Ms. Levison made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 9:05 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 10/13/20
- 23 Lovers Lane: Status update of 10/26/20
- 16A South Shaker Road: Water quality reports of 5/6/20, 7/8/20 & 7/24/20
- Craftsman Village Harvard: Revised Soils Mitigation Plan of 10/19/20
- 277 Stow Road: Septic application, proposed plan, variance request letter, local upgrade conditions form, and unsigned permit
- 88 East Bare Hill Road: Septic application and unsigned permit
- 108 Pinnacle Road: Septic application, proposed plan, and unsigned permit
- 111 & 113 Clinton Shore Drive, Units 25 & 29: Septic application, proposed plan, and unsigned permit
- 117 & 119 Clinton Shore Drive, Units 31 & 33: Septic application, proposed plan, and unsigned permit
- 157 Bolton Road: Proposed plan and unsigned permit
- 168 Bolton Road: Proposed plan and unsigned permit
- 132 Poor Farm Road: Septic application, proposed plan, and unsigned permit