

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
May 10, 2022
Approved: June 14, 2022

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

Others Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health (BOH) Administrative Assistant; Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH).

Ms. Levison called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Ms. Flynn read an abbreviated remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider extension of Approved Sampler designation for Friot's Water Treatment

The Board Members considered the request of Friot's Water Treatment (herein "Friots") for extended consideration as an "Approved Sampler" for purposes of sampling private wells in anticipation of home sales consistent with the Private Wells regulation. Mr. Grossman stated that Friot's has been reporting on time and sharing information with the exception of one case that was sampled from a post-treatment source. He indicated that he clarified the requirement for sampling from a pretreated source after that incident and has not had issues since. Mr. Grossman recommended the BOH extend the approval for one year. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to extend the approval for 12 mo. from expiration; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Review draft letter to legislators regarding the EEA's evaluation criteria for the 2022 Application for Municipality Opt-Out of SRMCB Spraying

The Board Members reviewed the technical information prepared by Ms. McCarthy and discussed the greeting and conclusion to be included in a letter to the legislators. Ms. McCarthy stated she reviewed the DPH's arbovirus spreadsheets from 2014 to present and was shocked at how few positive EEE incidences there were. Mr. Mitchell suggested the letter's closing state that it is inappropriate to ask communities to invest their time in a process that has a predetermined outcome. Ms. Levison suggested that Senator Comerford be added as a recipient. Ms. McCarthy stated that she would like to include that the EEA's citing of data drives communities into the hands of mosquito districts; Mr. Mitchell added that this is an unfunded mandate. Ms. Levison stated she received responses from contacts at the New England Organic Farmer's association and MA Audubon which agreed that the risk assessment criteria was ludicrous.

Ms. Levison volunteered to follow-up with the EEA regarding definitions used when determining each municipality's risk. Ms. Levison and Mr. Mitchell agreed to review Ms. McCarthy's draft and provide comments; Ms. Flynn will provide formatting assistance.

Consider handouts for Annual Town Meeting

The Members agreed that handouts are not needed at Annual Town Meeting.

Review Year-to-Date budget report

Ms. Levison stated that she asked for the Members to be provided the Year-to-Date budget reports so they could consider what activities to work on next. She asked that they consider whether the BOH has time to prepare a town-wide mailing on arbovirus, and advised that a town-wide mailing costs approximately \$1,100. Mr. Grossman confirmed that he does not need any algae testing supplies for the summer, but that the BOH would likely need cuvettes for the next summer. Ms. Levison noted that the kiosk needs to be built for the algae sign. Ms. Flynn confirmed there is approximately \$2,445 left in the algae fund. Ms. Levison suggested the BOH could use extra H brackets for the algae notice signs. Ms. Flynn confirmed that there is approximately \$45,000 available to loan out through the Community Septic Management Program. The Members agreed to purchase student volunteer, Lena Aloise, a generic gift card in the amount of \$75.00 to thank her for her graphic design work on the waste hauler and Earth Day Event. Ms. Levison noted that the MAHB is holding a Spring conference if anyone is able to attend. Ms. Flynn noted that she has not received a Membership Fees invoice from MAHB, though she has e-mailed to request an invoice on two occasions. The BOH Members agreed to brainstorm outreach ideas for ads to be placed in The Harvard Press.

Discuss notification of Board of Health meeting vacation schedule

The BOH Members agreed to hold only one meeting in August on the 16th. Ms. Flynn will prepare a News/Announcement for the webpage with an alert sent to BOH e-subscribers.

Report from Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings

Mr. Mitchell reported on his attendance at the public meeting. He indicated that the consultants explained their standard practice to provide a community mitigation plan. Mr. Mitchell stated the consultants identified some of the hazards and stated that there were no public health hazards included other than the impact of weather on infrastructure. Mr. Mitchell agreed to circulate his meeting notes to the Members.

Report from LUB Meeting of 5/10/22

Ms. McCarthy reported that Mr. Ryan will be resigning from his position at the end of the fiscal year, as the Town Administrator will be instead hiring a Town Planner. Ms. McCarthy noted that the Town Charter calls for a Director of Community and Economic Development and expressed her frustration to have spent so much time developing a Charter which would not be enforced. She stated that she is discussing the best path forward with the Charter Commission. Ms. McCarthy reported that the Occupancy Permits for Craftsman Village have not been issued as Mr. Hayes found construction issues upon inspection which will need to be resolved. Ms. Levison stated that she advised Chief Sicard that there are multiple versions of the plans for 203 Ayer Road.

COVID-19: Including current status and questions from DPH conference calls

Ms. Levison reported on her attendance on the day's conference call. She indicated that there was discussion regarding childhood lead poisoning prevention and stated DPH will increase surveillance of lead in rural communities. Ms. Levison noted that the Local Public Health Institute will be offering more training programs. She also indicated that MA.gov is offering telehealth screening for Paxlovid eligibility; Ms. Flynn will include this information on the COVID-19 webpage and send out a News/Announcement to e-subscribers. Ms. Levison also noted that Lori Courtney

believes there will be a COVID-19/flu vaccine available in the fall of 2023. Ms. Levison indicated that Harvard's COVID-19 case numbers are pretty good, but the State's are not. She learned that wastewater analysis is showing a possible spike. Ms. Levison stated she advised the Superintendent, Five Sparks, and Warner Free Library Lectures to run programs with open windows. Mr. Mitchell suggested people be reminded that the newest variant is more transmissible and methods to decrease transmission in the past still work.

Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the members to consider requests for reimbursement to Ms. McCarthy (\$26.20) and Ms. Levison (\$14.38) for supplies/printing costs associated with production of Earth Day event posters. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to reimburse Ms. McCarthy for out-of-pocket expenses amount of \$26.20; Ms. Levison seconded. Both were in favor; Ms. McCarthy abstained. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to reimburse Ms. Levison for out-of-pocket expenses amount of \$14.38; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Both were in favor; Ms. Levison abstained.
- Ms. Flynn asked the members to consider approval of the AlphaGraphics Invoice in the amount of \$1,103.76 for the town-wide mailing in support of the waste hauler regulation. Mr. Mitchell made the motion approve the invoice of Alpha Graphics; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Further consideration of draft seasonal conversion guidance document

The BOH Members considered the revised draft document with comments from Dan Wolfe, PE. Ms. McCarthy agreed to further revise the document consistent with the discussion.

Approval of revisions to the Bare Hill Pond Algal Bloom Procedures

The group reviewed and revised the draft Procedures. Ms. Levison will make further revisions consistent with the discussion, and circulate to the group for comment prior to the end of the month.

Update re status of Town Meeting warrant article for non-criminal disposition bylaw and discuss when ticketing is required

This item was tabled for a future agenda.

Next steps regarding revisions to the waste hauler regulation

Ms. Levison volunteered to prepare a draft email to Ms. Congdon with questions about potential revisions for Ms. McCarthy's review.

Continued discussion regarding BOH interest in goals of the Climate Action Plan

Ms. McCarthy stated that the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee (herein HCIC) will be presenting to the Select Board next week and asked that the goals be shared with the BOH after that meeting. She indicated that HCIC is looking to build a Climate Action Plan, to reduce the carbon footprint, around six categories which will have liaisons, lead committees, and stakeholder

committees to address actions. Ms. McCarthy advised that Preparedness will be partly based on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Levison suggested Public Health should be its own category. Ms. McCarthy will circulate the table of categories prepared by the HCIC.

PFAS update, including but not limited to continued discussion re MassDEP Private Well PFAS testing program

Mr. Mitchell noted that a Devens RAB meeting would be held later in the week. The group discussed a non-detect PFAS result received from the DEP program earlier in the day.

Review Action Items

Action Items were not reviewed.

PERMITS

Septic:

- Lot 5 Prospect Hill Road: Mr. Grossman advised that the application was for a new, fully compliant system. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the permit application for Lot 5 Prospect Hill; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of April 12, 2022. Ms. McCarthy made the motion to accept the Minutes of 4/12/22 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

Ms. McCarthy made the motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 4/12/22
- E-mail from Friot's requesting an extension as an Approved Sampler (5/2/22)
- YTD budget reports for the BOH general fund, BHP testing fund, and CSMP (5/5/22)
- AlphaGraphics Invoice No. 5200 for town-wide mailing (5/9/22)
- Ms. Levison's receipt from Michael's for supplies for Earth Day Event
- Ms. McCarthy's receipt from Staples for printing for Earth Day Event

- Revised draft seasonal home conversion document
- Draft document with technical information compiled from EEA and DPH communications on the opt-out process
- Draft revisions to the waste hauler regulation
- Lot 5 Prospect Hill Road: Unsigned septic permit, septic permit application, and proposed SDS plan