

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
November 15, 2022
Approved: November 29, 2022

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

Others Attending, including but not limited to: Jim Garreffo, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH); Dan Wolfe, David E. Ross Associates; Kara & Rudy Minar, Still River Road; Nancy Hazel, Property Owner, 2 Still River Depot Road; Suzanne Dutkewych; David Hazel; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions.

Public Comment

None.

2 Still River Depot Road/206 Still River Road: Consideration of local upgrade requests including permitting of a design plan including a holding tank

Mr. Mitchell indicated that the agenda of November 8, 2022 incorrectly identified the property address on the agenda of 11/8/22, so the BOH would be having the discussion again. Mr. Wolfe confirmed that the property in question is the site of the old Post Office and was given the two addresses of 2 Still River Depot Road and 206 Still River Road. He explained that soil testing results of high ground water and the restrictions of the small, less than 1/3 acre lot, allowed only for a conventional design which included an unsightly mound, fill against the building, a 70-80 foot retaining wall along the abutter's property line, and multiple variances. Mr. Wolfe indicated that the more preferable option would be to design a septic system with a holding tank which would meet all Title 5 and local regulations except for the offset to groundwater for the tank invert, which is allowed with a local upgrade approval. Mr. Wolfe stated that the offset is extra insurance but not necessary if the invert connection is properly sealed, and he has noted on the plan for the installer to ensure that the invert is hydraulically sealed.

Mr. Garreffo stated that he believes a tight tank is a reasonable approach for this site, as installation of a conventional system without impact to the structures would be very difficult. Mr. Wolfe confirmed that a "holding tank" is synonymous with "tight tank". He also confirmed that an alarm which sounds when the tank is at 3/5 capacity is always required with a tight tank approval. Mr. Wolfe stated that the audio alarm can be silenced, but the light will not go out until the tank is pumped. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the local upgrade request for the invert to the tank at 2 Still River Depot Road; Ms. Levison seconded. Ms. Levison added that the address is also 206 Still River Road. The motion passed by unanimous, roll call vote.

Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison indicated that they should be able to attend the DPH webinar on November 22nd which will address Title 5 changes.

Consider adding requirement to the recently revised waste hauler regulation which would

obligate permitted haulers to inform customers of changes to the waste bans

The Members agreed to the proposed requirement, and also revised the fine schedule to reduce the largest fine from \$500 to \$300. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to accept the waste hauler revisions as presented; Mr. Mitchell seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Ms. Flynn indicated that she would revise the application and Annual Reporting Form consistent with the recent regulation revisions. Ms. Levison and Mr. Mitchell agreed to revisions prior to her sending the forms to the waste haulers.

Discuss quantity and location of remaining COVID-19 test kits for distribution

Ms. Levison reported that there is a ½ box of test kits left at the Council On Aging (COA), and a 1/3 box left each at the library and Public Safety Building. Ms. Flynn indicated that she expects to have a box back at Town Hall shortly. Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy reported feedback that residents were delighted to receive the test kits. Ms. Levison stated that The Harvard Press would report that the test kits were in limited supply at the four locations. It was agreed that any remaining small amounts would be given to the COA for distribution.

Consider FY24 budget submission

The BOH reviewed the first draft of the budget submission. Mr. Garreffo confirmed that a 5% increase from NABH would be a reasonable placeholder. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison agreed to a short meeting the following week to review the draft narrative, and Ms. McCarthy will provide comments before then. Ms. Flynn will confirm how much she spent on office supplies in FY22. Ms. Levison will explore whether there is an effective product less expensive than Ticked Off removers for purchase.

Consider items for the next agenda

It was agreed that the meeting on November 22nd would be for the budget only, and the meeting on November 29th could be held during the day if necessary.

Ms. Levison made the motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- 2 Still River Depot Road/206 Still River Road: Variance request letter & form, proposed SDS plan
- Ms. Levison's comments on Article IV: Solid Waste & Recyclables