

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
February 13, 2023
Approved: March 14, 2023

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

Others Attending, including but not limited to: Alison Flynn, Board of Health Clerk; Jim Garreffo, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss RCAP announcement “SERCAP is Now Accepting Applications for Individual Household Well and Septic Loans”

Ms. Levison asked the BOH to consider whether to circulate the flyer sent from RCAP regarding their program. Ms. Levison indicated that her knowledge regarding the program is limited to the flyer which advertises the availability of loans in amounts up to \$15,000 for improvements to wells and septic systems for applicants who are income eligible. Mr. Garreffo noted that \$15,000 will not cover much in terms of septic repair. Ms. Flynn confirmed that the BOH has a little more than \$50,000 available to loan currently through the Community Septic Management Program. Ms. Levison will invite RCAP to provide an overview and handouts regarding the program at the PFAS Forum on March 23rd. The Members agreed that Ms. Flynn will not send out an e-mail announcement of the program at this time, but will have the flyer available for any residents who have questions.

Update re EAT Request and receipt of EDS supplies from the Worcester PHEP office

Mr. Mitchell reported that he picked up from the Worcester office totes, signs, batteries, and top-of-cone directional arrows. Ms. Flynn advised that Ms. Gendron indicated the EAT Request was approved at the Region 2 Meeting and she believes will now be submitted for State approval. The Members considered revising the request to reduce the number of equipment tethers requested in response to the Fire Chief’s recent purchase of netting, but decided that if the full amount of tethers are received they will still be put to use.

Mr. Mitchell noted that it is clear from the last discussion with the Fire Chief and Ms. Natoli that the EDS trailer should be considered a shared resource and any activities involving the trailer should be communicated to all interested parties.

Discuss revisions to the Open Space & Recreation Plan’s language pertaining to wells in Harvard

Mr. Mitchell reported that Ms. Allard requested his input on the existing language. He stated that he would prepare draft language to be circulated among the group. Ms. Levison noted that the existing language does not reference PFAS.

Consider recommendation to Select Board for reappointment of Chris Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell indicated that he is in the process of preparing his application for reappointment to the BOH. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to endorse Mr. Mitchell for another term on the Board of Health; Ms. Levison seconded. Ms. Flynn indicated that she would share their recommendation with Ms. Doucet.

Report from interview with WBUR reporter

Ms. Levison indicated that she sent the group WBUR's overview of the upcoming coverage. Ms. Flynn stated that she forwarded it to Mr. O'Connor. The Members asked that she also forward it to Mr. Bragan, Ms. Sobalvarro, Mr. Kilhart, and Ms. Russo.

Ms. Levison indicated that she also circulated a draft announcement for the PFAS Forum to be sent out later in the week. She stated that once the Upper Town Hall space is confirmed by Ms. Doucet, she will write Senator Eldridge and Representative Sena to ask if they can attend and discuss their proposed legislation. Ms. Levison indicated that she may send Ms. Keating, of the EPA, a courtesy e-mail once the program is finalized. Mr. Mitchell agreed to do the same with Arcadis.

Report from Climate Action Plan Kickoff Meeting (2/9/23)

Mr. Mitchell apologized that he was unable to attend. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the Plan is heavy on Preparedness, but that the listed goals are already pretty routine for the BOH. She indicated that the most critical item is that the BOH keeps track of what is done so that the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee (HCIC) can report to the Select Board on what has been achieved. Ms. McCarthy stated that the HCIC is working on preparing a universal rubric that can be used for goal reporting. Ms. McCarthy confirmed that "wildfires" will be the jurisdiction of the Fire Department. Ms. McCarthy agreed to work on a piece regarding what products should and should not be used in your septic once the drought piece is complete.

Ms. Levison advised that she agreed to prepare a recycling table for Earth Day, but asked the BOH Members to consider taking a shift. She stated the event is schedule for April 22nd from 11am-4pm.

COVID-19: Current status

Ms. Levison stated that there were fewer than 5 cases in Harvard during the week that ended February 9th. She reported that West of Route 495 is currently low risk with Middlesex County and the Cape & Island at medium risk.

Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the BOH to consider whether a representative should attend the Community Health Link webinar on 2/17/23 regarding the new behavioral health resources. The Members indicated they were not available.
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- Ms. Flynn updated the BOH Members on her continued conversations with the Finance Director regarding funds for testing of Bare Hill Pond. Mr. Mitchell agreed to review the accounts with Ms. Flynn and report back at the next meeting.
- Mr. Garreffo asked the Board Members for guidance on considerations for stable permit issuance. Ms. Levison indicated that Mr. Grossman shared applications with the Conservation Agent to make sure there was not wetland infringement; Ms. Flynn confirmed she continues to send Ms. Allard each application for her review. Ms. McCarthy indicated that it is important to her to see that a manure pile for compost is managed, including with regular turning. Ms. Levison stated that it is important to her that the BOH stays consistent. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he will continue to review applications with consideration of impact to the well, risk of creating nuisance situations, and to ensure any composting has a management plan.

OLD BUSINESS

PFAS: Including but not limited to report from the Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of 2/9/23 and review of the PFAS Interagency Task Force Report of April 2022

Mr. Mitchell indicated that he reviewed the PFAS Interagency Task Force Report again and flagged the one instance where Harvard was referenced as a community where PFAS has been detected. He indicated that there was nothing else of real substance in the Report that the BOH is not already aware of. Mr. Mitchell indicated that Ms. Levison prepared great notes of the Devens RAB Meeting and Mr. Mitchell submitted his questions in advance. Ms. Levison stated that in response to Mr. Mitchell's question regarding where sampling would be performed in Harvard in Phase II, she was told that their intent is to sample wells on the eastern side of Cold Spring Brook (south of Barnum Rd.) and east of the golf course which would mean the wells at the very end of Old Mill Road in Harvard. She said they indicated that in order to do this, they first need to go through multiple phases studying the hydrology and geology, and obtain right-of-access from the property owners. Ms. Levison indicated Steve Perry stated what a wonderful resource Mr. Mitchell is to the RAB. She reported that she asked Arcadis if they plan additional sampling will be performed by the Shabokin well; Mr Perry replied there will be testing around the Shabokin well but said the area is difficult to access. Ms Levison suggested that the BOH should continue to advocate for testing at the Shabokin well and that some test sites should be east of the well (the Harvard side). Mr. Mitchell noted that the schedule has slipped and that it will be summer before they start sampling. Ms. Levison indicated that they stated this is because they are waiting for comments which they cannot move forward without.

Ms. Levison indicated she is unsure if she'll continue to pursue a showing of the movie "Dark Waters" in Harvard, as it will be shown in Ayer around the same time as she previously planned.

Update regarding status of draft non-criminal disposition bylaw and plan for revision of Board of Health regulations, if needed

Mr. Mitchell indicated that the BOH learned from Mr. Bragan that the Select Board does not intend to reintroduce the non-criminal disposition bylaw at Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Mitchell requested that Ms. Flynn add revision of the BOH regulations, as needed, to future agendas as scheduling allows.

Consider revisions to Article I: Sanitation, including previously drafted tight tank regulation

The BOH Members reviewed and revised the draft Sanitation regulations. Mr. Garreffi confirmed that the BOH will need to hold a public hearing if adopting regulations which are more stringent than Title 5 requirements, and advised that the current draft regulations regarding tight tanks are more stringent. Ms. Levison agreed to draft proposed fines for consideration at the next meeting.

Status of satellite phone base station installation at the Bromfield School and Public Safety Building

Ms. Levison requested this item be tabled for a future meeting. Mr. Mitchell agreed.

Continued discussion regarding placement of additional textile recycling bins on municipal property

Mr. Mitchell suggested that this discussion should be tabled until a moving date is known for the COA.

Drought: Continued discussion regarding next public outreach steps

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy reported that they are in the process of drafting the drought pieces for The Harvard Press.

Recycle Your Reusables: Continued discussion regarding financial support

Ms. Levison indicated that she wrote to Mr. Kilhart in January and will follow-up.

Status of application for stroke awareness outreach grant in conjunction with Harvard Ambulance Service and the Council-on-Aging

Mr. Mitchell reported that MORE Advertising advised that they will be making a decision on grant awards by mid-February. Mr. Mitchell also stated that he ordered and received 300 stroke awareness magnets on behalf of the BOH.

Action Items

Action Items were reviewed.

PERMITS

Septic:

Mr. Garreffi reviewed the septic permits he recently issued for each of the following:

- 90 Warren Avenue
- 23 Whitney Lane
- 35 Ayer Road

Waste Hauler:

- Ms. Flynn asked the BOH Members to consider complete application package of Baker Commodities, Inc., for a limited permit for hauling of single-material solid waste and/or recyclables, namely used cooking oil. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the limited

hauling permit for Baker Commodities; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

- Ms. Flynn advised that United Hauling, Inc., has not yet submitted a complete application package and asked the BOH Members to consider what, if any, enforcement measures they would like to implement. She indicated that she included in the preparation package the customer list of United Hauling so that the Members could understand the scope of enforcement of the previously issued Cease & Desist Order. The Members agreed, given the scope of customers who would be affected, not to act on the Cease & Desist Order at this time, but to communicate to the hauler that a complete application package would be required before the next Board of Health meeting.

Stable:

- 161 Bolton Road: Ms. McCarthy indicated that after further review of the property's prior stable permit applications, she is comfortable with permit issuance along with enclosure of the UMASS Extension School's guidance document regarding composting. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the permit for 161 Bolton Road; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

MINUTES

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of 2/1/23. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the Minutes of 2/1/23 as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed. Ms. Levison asked that the Board consider adding additional addresses to the list of those required to sample for PFAS at the next meeting.

The BOH Members voiced their intent to attend Special Town Meeting. Mr. Mitchell asked whether it would be an overstatement to indicate that the BOH was in favor of tying into the Devens water supply. Ms. Levison stated that she is in favor in interest of public health, but wonders if the Town could find another funding source.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
 - Draft Minutes of 2/1/23
 - Draft revisions to the Sanitation regulation
 - 161 Bolton Road: Stable permit application
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- Baker Commodities: Waste hauler application package
 - United Hauling, Inc.: Partial waste hauler application package
 - RCAP announcement of private well and septic loan program
 - E-mail from Liz Allard regarding current language re wells in Open Space Plan
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