

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**April 10, 2023**  
**Approved: April 24, 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 Garreffi, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider sponsoring MPH practicum of Jess Sheldon**

Ms. Flynn and Ms. Levison indicated that Ms. Sheldon was invited to attend the meeting. Ms. Levison volunteered to follow-up with Ms. Sheldon in anticipation for discussion on another agenda. Ms. Levison indicated that the practicum would be in the fall and Ms. Sheldon applied to other locations, as well.

**Schedule Spring clean-out of EDS trailer**

Mr. Mitchell noted that Chief Sicard and Ms. Natoli were invited to the discussion, but not in attendance. He suggested that the BOH would need 2-3 hours to clean out the trailer, and that it would be ideal to do so by pulling into a Fire Station bay or out in front of the Station to have access to power for vacuuming. Ms. Flynn reported that Region 2 PHEP contacted her to ask the BOH to consider substitutions for their approved EAT request because pricing has increased. Ms. Flynn stated that she forwarded that list to Chief Sicard for his input at Mr. Mitchell's request. Ms. Levison agreed to consider the list of tether straps requested now that the BOH is aware that the Chief obtained netting to secure the contents of the trailer. Mr. Mitchell suggested the BOH hold off on scheduling the clean-out until we are aware of when the EAT request supplies will be delivered.

**Discuss outreach to encourage use of healthier furnishings in municipal buildings**

Ms. Levison stated that this discussion was inspired by one of the questions the BOH received from a resident in anticipation of the PFAS forum. Ms. Levison indicated that she contacted Pat Harrington at the Schools who expressed interest in discussing this further. Mr. Mitchell suggested the TURI Shopper's Guide to Avoiding PFAS be linked on the BOH webpage stating PFAS is contained in all kinds of different products and for guidance on avoiding these products please see the link. Ms. McCarthy suggested the BOH also send a Memo to Town Departments stating the same and attaching the TURI document. Mr. Mitchell stated the Memo should educate

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the departments without regulating.

### **Consider activities for Stroke Awareness Month (May)**

Mr. Mitchell suggested the BOH distribute State supplied materials on stroke at Town Meeting and with the COA, and ask the Library to put out a display of publications. Ms. Levison suggested Ms. Flynn order posters for placement at Town Hall, COA, and the Library, and give handouts to the ambulance for distribution on calls during the month of May. Ms. McCarthy suggested the BOH offer brochures to the Churches. Ms. Levison suggested the BOH offer these to the Schools. Mr. Mitchell agreed with Ms. Levison's suggestion that the BOH should offer materials to local health care providers.

### **Consider draft document regarding choosing a lab for water quality testing**

The BOH Members reviewed and revised the draft document. Ms. Flynn will accept all track changes and post the document to the BOH webpage.

### **Review BOH year-to-date FY23 budget**

Ms. Flynn shared her spreadsheet of the status of the BOH's spending against the budgeted line items. Ms. Levison volunteered to prepare a townwide mailing on insect-borne diseases. Ms. Levison asked whether the BOH would consider spending approximately \$600 on a Styrofoam take-back event in June; Mr. Mitchell indicated that he thinks that would be fine. Mr. Mitchell asked whether the BOH is comfortable reallocating funds to items other than originally specified; Ms. Levison answered "yes". Ms. Flynn noted that the BOH should expect to incur fees for legal notices for the Sanitation regulation amendments. Ms. Flynn will confirm that purchases of gift cards for the student volunteer providing graphic design was not in FY23. Ms. Levison noted that townwide mailing for stroke could be paid for with funds marked for public forum speaker fees which are no longer anticipated before the end of FY23.

### **Consider statement in support of connection to Devens**

The BOH reviewed and revised the draft statement. Ms. Levison and Mr. Mitchell will continue to revise the statement before submission to The Harvard Press.

### **Consider joining the Coalition for Safe Drinking Water**

The BOH Members agreed to join the Coalition at the request of Madison Wellman of RCAP Solutions. Ms. Flynn will submit the "Interest" form and provide consent to allow the Coalition to list the BOH as an entity v. the Members individually.

### **Designate attendees (due 4/10) for the NABH/NVMC Mental Health Awareness Training (5/25 & 6/1/23)**

The BOH Members agreed that Jason Cotting and a representative from the Police Department would be the ideal attendees with someone from the Council-On-Aging and School Nursing as alternative options. Ms. Flynn will reach out to Mr. Cotting and Chief Babu to see whether there is availability to attend.

### **Report from meeting with Select Board liaison, Rich Maiore**

Mr. Mitchell indicated that this meeting has not yet occurred.

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## **Report from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Executive Committee & Quarterly Meetings (4/6/23)**

Ms. Levison reported that Littleton has not been able to hire its own Health Agent and would like to rejoin the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. Ms. Levison indicated that the Executive Committee voted to allow Littleton to do so for two years. Ms. Levison report that there was also a long discussion about how to ensure the Nursing Services section of NABH is financially stable. Mr. Garreffi indicated that there was also a report from the consultant regarding the status of the Public Health Excellency grant.

### **COVID-19: Current Status**

Ms. Levison reported that the current COVID-19 risk status is "low".

### **Update from DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar(s)**

Ms. McCarthy reported that there was a lot of discussion about what to do when the public health emergency ends, not much of which was applicable to Harvard. She stated that the biggest impact for Harvard residents will be that insurance companies will not be required to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine, but that the State will require that the vaccine be included in the School Immunization Program. Ms. McCarthy indicated there was also discussion regarding credentialing of Registered Sanitarians and Public Health Officers.

### **Clerk & Health Agent Update**

- Ms. Flynn requested approval of her reimbursement for payment for her annual renewal of Adobe Acrobat in the amount of \$155.88. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the reimbursement; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Mr. Garreffi reported that he met with DEP, Mr. Ferrence, his engineer, and his water operator regarding his request to deactivate the Public Water Supply at 247 Littleton County Road. Mr. Garreffi stated he indicated at the meeting that he was not comfortable supporting deactivation but would defer to DEP on its interpretation of the DEP policy. The BOH Members questioned whether a commercial kitchen could exist without a Public Water Supply. Mr. Garreffi said he had the same question.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Continued discussion re change in Board of Health Meeting schedule**

The group agreed to change the BOH Meetings to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 4pm to 6pm beginning in May. Ms. McCarthy noted she will be unable to attend the meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Mitchell indicated the would be unavailable from May 27- June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Resume planning for installation of Pond Road kiosk**

The Members agreed that the kiosk should be installed during the first week in June. Ms. McCarthy indicated that by June 15<sup>th</sup> would be too late. Ms. Levison indicated that she has received positive feedback on the public health alert regarding mercury in the largemouth bass at Bare Hill Pond.

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## **Consider revisions to Article I: Sanitation**

The BOH Members reviewed and revised draft amendments to the regulation. The Members agreed that they are ready to consider the amendments at a hearing. Ms. Flynn will move forward with advertising the hearing for the first meeting in May.

## **Continued preparation of comments to the Planning Board regarding the proposed Protective Bylaw Amendment: “Smart Growth Overlay District”**

The BOH considered Ms. Levison’s comments regarding the bylaw amendment. Ms. Flynn will prepare a Memorandum for Ms. Levison’s review prior to Mr. Mitchell’s final approval.

## **Continued follow-up from EDS Plan Review Initial Meeting (3/9/23)**

The BOH Members reviewed and revised the Important Contact Information Form. Ms. Flynn will ask Chief Sicard for his confirmation that Jason Cotting would be the appropriate individual for the Logistics Chief role.

## **Plan for distribution of information at Spring Town Meeting (4/29), Townwide Cleanup (5/4-5/8), and Garden Club Plant Sale (5/20)**

Ms. Flynn reported that handouts regarding the Behavioral Health Help Line were received. Ms. Levison indicated that MA Clearinghouse does not have any materials regarding sunblock or recycling. Ms. Flynn agreed to check the MA Clearinghouse for handouts regarding drought, and the office for handouts regarding recycling. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mitchell confirmed they will be available to assist on Earth Day; Ms. Levison will prepare a schedule.

## **Drought: Continued discussion regarding next public outreach steps**

Ms. McCarthy stated the first two drought articles were submitted to The Harvard Press and she is awaiting feedback before beginning the third article. Ms. Flynn noted that the BOH website does not currently include a “Drought” page and the Members should think about what they would like included.

## **Continued discussion regarding Massachusetts Statewide Opioid Settlement Funds**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

## **Action Items**

Action items were not reviewed.

## **PERMITS**

### **Septic**

- **339 Stow Road:** Ms. Flynn reported on Mr. Garreffi’s issuance of a permit for replacement of the distribution box and seal chamber.

## **MINUTES**

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The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of 2/27/23. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of the PFAS Forum held on 3/23/23. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the draft Minutes of the PFAS Forum held on 3/23/23 as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of 3/13/23. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Minutes of 3/13/23 as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison were in favor by roll call vote; Ms. McCarthy abstained.

## **DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Items for the next agenda were briefly discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Levison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m; Mr. Mitchell seconded. Ms. McCarthy left the meeting. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

### **Documents Referenced:**

- Posted Agenda
  - Email from Jess Sheldon MPH practicum
  - Draft guidance on testing wells
  - Mental Health Awareness event "Save the Date"
  - COVID-19 case history spreadsheet
  - Draft Memo re smart growth overlay district
  - Spreadsheet re status of FY23 budget spending
  - Ms. McCarthy's LBOH webinar notes of 3/28/23
  - Coalition for Safe Drinking Water webpage and Interest Form
  - Invoice for Adobe Acrobat
  - Draft BOH position on Devens water connection
  - ICS organizational structure & elements guidance document
  - Important Contact Info. (from EDS Plan)
  - Shopper's Guide to Avoiding PFAS & PFAS levels in healthier furnishings
  - SM email re adding ATSDR to PFAS resources on webpage
  - Draft amendments to the Sanitation regulation
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