

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**May 9, 2023**  
**Approved: June 12, 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; Bruce Ringwall, GPR, Inc.; Tim Clark, property owner, 114 Bolton Road; Dan Wolfe, David E. Ross Associates; Bob Kody, Envision Homes.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**114 Bolton Road: Request for groundwater offset reduction for septic design plan and confirmation of room count**

Mr. Garreffi indicated that he reviewed the proposed plan which requests a two-foot reduction to groundwater for an upgrade of the septic system to a Presby system and inclusion of a bathroom in the finished space above the detached garage. Mr. Ringwall indicated that the proposed plan will allow for most of the trenches to average about 2.5 feet above the groundwater and would eliminate the need for clear cutting mature trees. Mr. Garreffi advised that the Code requires maximum feasible compliance and thinks that the lot allows for a design that is closer to full compliance. Mr. Ringwall suggested that the Board has approved two foot to groundwater reductions in the past where there were cost or aesthetic concerns with meeting full compliance. The Members considered the request and agreed that allowing the reduction would be consistent to prior decisions and within the approved allowances for Presby systems.

The Board Members considered the existing and proposed layout plan and agreed that requiring a three-bedroom deed restriction would be appropriate and consistent with prior decisions.

Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the 2-foot to groundwater offset reduction for 117 Bolton Road contingent on the homeowner recording a 3-bedroom deed restriction; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

**Regulation Hearing: Consider draft revisions to the Board of Health Regulations, Article I: Sanitation**

Mr. Mitchell opened the regulation hearing at approximately 4:22 pm. The Board Members discussed comments on the proposed regulation from Ms. Levison and Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Garreffi confirmed that the definition of “Facility” is as read in Title 5. The Members agreed that “per day” should be added to the titles of Sections 5 and 6. Mr. Garreffi agreed that there is no reason to restrict a property which percs between 40 and 60 minutes per inch. The Board agreed to remove these requirements. The Board also agreed upon an effective date of June 1, 2023.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve Article 1: Sanitation of the Board of Health Regulations as amended to be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of June; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Mr. Mitchell closed the hearing at approximately 4:40 p.m.

### **90 Warren Ave.: Well variance hearing to consider request for reduction in offset to the wetlands**

Mr. Wolfe indicated that the property owners have received permits from: the BOH for upgrade of the septic system, the Conservation Commission to work in the wetland buffer zone, and the ZBA for its applicable permit, but Mr. Garreffi noted that a well variance is needed for a reduction in the offset from the well to the inland wetlands. Mr. Wolfe indicated that the proposed well is 34 feet from the inland wetlands and approximately 106 feet from the proposed geothermal wells. Mr. Wolfe further explained that the proposed plan includes a forced main that will cross a bridge over the inland wetlands. Mr. Garreffi indicated that he does not have any comments or concerns with the requested variance.

Ms. Levison made a motion for the local upgrade to include a 34-foot offset from the well to the wetlands at the property at 90 Warren Ave.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

### **Report from attendance at Spring Town Meeting**

Ms. McCarthy noted that Town Meeting was the fastest on record. Ms. Levison stated that there was no confusion regarding the monitoring for blue green algae, and that the BOH Members each spoke up regarding the opioid funds. Mr. Mitchell also noted that the BOH handed out information on stroke and the behavioral health hotline.

### **Report from attendance at Earth Day events**

Ms. Levison suggested that participation was not high because the event was held over April vacation week. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the event is being re-imagined for next year.

### **Consider hand-out of materials at the Garden Club Plant Sale (May 20<sup>th</sup>)**

Ms. Levison indicated that she plans to hand out tick, mosquito, and composting information at the Plant Sale and would love another volunteer to assist if available.

### **Consider BOH spending prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Ms. Flynn indicated that the Finance Director provided a memo requiring the spending commitments by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Levison stated that she emailed Mr. Mullane and he indicated that it is still possible to hold the Styrofoam take-back event for one of the first two weekends in June. The Members reviewed the budget spreadsheet prepared for the 4/10/23 meeting and agreed that

they have enough money in the budget to sponsor the Styrofoam take-back event and townwide mailings on vectors and stroke. Mr. Mitchell agreed to prepare wording for the stroke mailing by the end of the day. Ms. Levison shared a list of Styrofoam items that can be collected. Ms. Levison agreed to prepare a poll to identify whether residents have enough Styrofoam collected for an event in June.

Ms. McCarthy made a motion to sponsor a Styrofoam takeback event costing \$500 and advertising of the same pending Ms. Levison's confirmation that an event makes sense; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Flynn noted that any spending should be approved by the BOH at the next meeting, and stated that she will likely need to make some purchases in anticipation of the move up to Hildreth House. She stated that they will be considering purchases together within the Land Use Department.

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

Ms. Flynn indicated that Ms. McCarthy provided the slide from the most recent DPH webinar which outlines the changes in consideration of COVID-19 vaccination status and suggested that she replace the information on the BOH website with the contents from the slide. The members agreed.

The Members agreed that this discussion item will be removed as a standing item on future agendas in accordance with the expiration of the public health emergency.

### **Report from the DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar**

Ms. Levison reported on her attendance at the most recent webinar which consisted of a very well done presentation regarding PFAS. She indicated that she learned that PFAS have been found in freshwater fish throughout MA, but have not been found in sea fish, and that there is an FDA study being conducted to determine whether food is contaminated by packaging. Other topics are included in her notes from the meeting.

### **Clerk & Health Agent Update, including but not limited to:**

- Ms. Levison made a motion to pay The Harvard Press in the amount of \$144.00 for the legal advertisement of the Sanitation regulation amendment hearing; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. McCarthy made a motion to pay FedEx in the amount of \$114.90 for shipping of the fluorometer to Amiscience for calibration; Ms. Levison seconded. Ms. Flynn confirmed that the invoice reflects costs for shipping to Amiscience in CA, and the return shipping was included in the Amiscience invoice for services approved at a prior meeting. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn advised the Members that she forwarded the DPH Algal Blooms webinar preregistration link via e-mail that day.
- Ms. Flynn advised the BOH Members that she has not yet heard back from Chief Sicard with his input on the EDS Security Plan Agreement and the Schools with their execution of the EDS Plan Agreement. She reminded them that the plan documents will need approval by June 1<sup>st</sup> for the PHEP Planner to meet her deliverables. The BOH Members asked that she write Chief Sicard and the Schools to advise that the BOH will be approving documents on 5/23/23 and need their responses before then.
- Mr. Garreffo noted that he'd appreciate the BOH's thoughts on when they would like to see groundwater reduction requests.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Drought: Continued discussion regarding next public outreach steps and review of draft article for The Harvard Press re water conservation**

The Members discussed Ms. Levison's comments on the draft article regarding water conservation. Mr. Mitchell agreed to provide additional comments via e-mail. Ms. Flynn indicated that she added links to a Drought page for the BOH and asked the Members to advise if they would like additional resources.

### **Continued discussion of activities for Stroke Awareness Month (May)**

Ms. Flynn indicated that the MA Clearinghouse approved shipment of an additional 400 stroke magnets. She stated that Lisa Rosen, of the COA, thought the materials Ms Flynn already dropped off were sufficient. Mr. Mitchell stated that he does not see a need for an additional order. Ms. McCarthy stated that she will e-mail the church secretaries to see if they are willing to hand out information. Mr. Mitchell agreed to draft an e-mail blurb advising that information is available in the BOH offices. The group agreed that Ms Flynn does not need to spend time contacting local healthcare providers.

### **Update re status of plans for a Styrofoam take-back event**

The Members did not discuss this item further.

### **Consider draft revisions to the Private Wells regulation to include a requirement for water quality testing and production of reports for rental properties**

The Members agreed to table this for a future meeting.

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

Ms. Levison stated that she does not have an update on this item.

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

Ms. Levison advised that she met with Mr. Woodsum and has the measurements for a box for the satellite phone base station at the School.

### **PFAS: Update**

Ms. Levison indicated that the Devens RAB Meeting would be held that week. Mr. Mitchell stated that he learned, at a USSGS and the State of NH seminar, that they are developing sludge standards for PFAS. Ms. McCarthy reported that she read an interesting NY Times that reported on cutting edge groundwater treatments for PFAS. Mr. Mitchell advised that he is about to start a project for the State of VT re PFAS and microplastics.

### **Follow-up from review of Harvard Water Department 2022 Consumer Confidence Report**

Ms. Levison indicated that she has not had the capacity to follow-up.

## **Further consideration of contribution to Arm in Arm's "Welcome Wagon" materials**

Ms. Flynn volunteered to revise the Stow document and About the BOH document for review by the BOH Members.

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

Ms. McCarthy suggested there ought to be a small steering committee of key players to make recommendations to Chief Babu, Chief Sicard, and Town Administrator, and that the BOH might be the appropriate catalyst for the group. She indicated that the COA and Schools are very much interested in how the settlement funds will be spent. Ms. Levison suggested that healthcare providers and people with lived experience should be included. Ms. McCarthy requested the members e-mail her specific people or types of people that should be included in the steering committee, and she would reach out to them upon her return from vacation.

## **Action Items**

Outstanding action items were reviewed.

## **PERMITS**

### **Septic**

- Mr. Garreffo reported on two permits recently issued: 30 Whitman Road and 7 Peninsula Road. He indicated that the local upgrade requests for 7 Peninsula Road were approved by the BOH at the last meeting, and that he will review 30 Whitman Road to confirm whether the long sewer line was noted.

## **MINUTES**

The Members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of 4/24/23. Mr. Mitchell 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 4/26/23. Ms. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

## **DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Items for the next agenda were discussed. Mr. Mitchell requested that Ms. Flynn flip Permits and Old Business for future agendas, moving Old Business items which require Mr. Garreffo's presence to the top of the list so he can sign off earlier in the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Levison made a motion to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

**Documents Referenced:**

- Posted Agenda
- 114 Bolton Road: Proposed plan, LU conditions form, request letter, proposed layout plan
- Proposed revisions to Article I: Sanitation with comments from Ms. Levison
- 90 Warren Ave: Variance request letter and proposed plan
- Finance Dept. Memo re end of FY23 procedures
- Budget spreadsheet prepared for 4/10/23 Meeting
- Styrofoam collection info sheet
- COVID vaccine summary slide from the 4/25/23 LBOH webinar
- Invoices from The Harvard Press and FedEx
- Draft drought article #3, "Protect My Well"
- Draft Minutes of 4/24/23 and 4/26/23