

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
May 23, 2023
Approved: June 12, 2023

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

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided abbreviated remote meeting instructions and noted that Ms. McCarthy was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from attendance at the DPH Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop (5/17/23)

Ms. Levison reported that DPH released a guidance document for local boards of health regarding harmful algal blooms (HABs) and recreational waters last year, and the Local Public Health Institute has similarly released new training sessions on HABs. She stated that she also learned that one community established one page on its town's website where all the information from the Pond Committee, Conservation Commission, and Board of Health regarding HABs and the Pond is located; she thought this would be a good thing for Harvard to consider. Ms. Levison also confirmed that the BOH's algal bloom procedures are in line with Mr. Wagner's presentation. The Members agreed to review the DPH guidance document to ensure that there are no inconsistencies with the HBOH procedures.

Consider recommendations to the Transfer Station working committee

Mr. Mitchell indicated that he has not heard from Mr. Maiore in follow-up to their prior discussion in which Mr. Maiore indicated that he was considering putting together a working committee. Ms. Levison indicated that such a working committee should consider visiting the Groton Transfer Station to see the improved flow and beneficial signage. She stated that there is a grant that Harvard would be eligible for which provides funding for education, outreach and signage. Ms. Levison also advised that the plan was to switch one of the three trash compactors out for a second compactor for plastic and cans once the trash was reduced; she believes that could be done now. Ms. Levison indicated that she has been approached by residents asking why the Transfer Station is not paid out of taxes like other utilities in Town; she suggested that this might be considered by a committee. Ms. Levison also suggested that the Town might want to consider allowing a limited number of permits for out-of-town users at a higher rate to improve revenue; Mr. Mitchell agreed that this is worth considering if the Transfer Station has capacity. Mr. Mitchell will e-mail Mr. Maiore to let him know that the BOH has some thoughts to share.

Prepare comments on the Harvard Housing Production Plan (due 5/31/23)

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison agreed to send Ms. Flynn any comments on the plan prior to their due date.

Consider placing ad(s) in The Harvard Press re upcoming public health news/issues

The BOH Members considered public health issues that would warrant a Harvard Press ad. Ms. Levison agreed to prepare an ad advising the things going on regarding PFAS in Harvard and directing residents to the website and sign-up for alerts. Ms. Levison suggested that the BOH should be adding Fact Sheets to the website and sending out alerts regarding the same. She indicated that she will prepare a PFAS ad for Mr. Mitchell's review before his vacation. Mr. Mitchell authorized Ms. Levison and Ms. Flynn to prepare and approve Press ads for stroke and ?? while he is on vacation.

Report from LUB Meeting (5/16/23)

Mr. Garreffi indicated that there was discussion of the status of Pine Hill Village, including that the septic permits for the last two sections have expired. Mr. Garreffi reported that he will be reviewing those for reissuance. He stated that the Planning Board and ConCom has had some difficulty with the landscaping company operating at 320 Ayer Road in that they are not adhering to the Special Permit which was issued. Mr. Garreffi reported that the Planning Board is coming to an end on their review of the 203 Ayer Road project; he expects that the applicant will be coming back to the Board of Health for review of the septic plans which have not been resubmitted since the fall. Mr. Garreffi indicated that there was some discussion about the MBTA and multi-family housing plans. He stated that the Planning Board was going to be looking at Lexington's recently adopted bylaw. Mr. Garreffi reported that Mr. Hayes has issued Certificates of Occupancy for all of the completed Pine Hill Village Units. He stated that there was also some discussion about the Stretch Building Code and how it might hamper growth because of the energy efficiency requirements.

Ms. Levison asked about the status of Kennedy & Co. Landscaping at 295 Ayer Road. Mr. Garreffi indicated that he recently reviewed a modification of the septic plan for the building and confirmed that a new well was installed.

Report from the DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar (5/23/23)

Ms. Levison reported on her attendance at the webinar. She questioned whether the boating and swimming lessons at the Town Beach qualify as a recreational camp and are therefore subject to new requirements. Mr. Garreffi indicated that it would depend on how the program is run and indicated that there is a DPH exemption form available for municipal Parks & Recreation Departments. Ms. Levison stated that the remainder of the webinar was dedicated to DPH's 2023 arbovirus program. She also indicated that a Harvard Board of Health contact for arbovirus should be updated in the MAVEN system; Mr. Garreffi agreed to look into this further.

Clerk & Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn reported that Mr. Garreffi provided her with electronic files of all Harvard's Title 5 Inspection Reports. Ms. Flynn will continue to scan all Reports received going forward.
- Ms. Flynn reported that the tentative move date for the Land Use and Building Departments is June 26th.
- Mr. Garreffi reported that he noted an uptick in the testing of private wells in the Town of

Harvard. Ms. Flynn agreed to draft an ad for the Harvard Press regarding requirements in anticipation of home sale.

PERMITS

Septic

- Mr. Garreffi reported on his recent issuance of three septic permits. He indicated that the permits for 11 Cove Road and 13 Eldridge Roads were permits to replace distribution boxes, and the permit for 114 Bolton Road was for the septic upgrade approved by the Members at the prior meeting.

Waste Hauler

Ms. Flynn reported that her letter to unpermitted hauler, Guido Services, Inc., was returned undeliverable to the mailing address indicated on the company's website. She stated that she telephoned Guido Services, Inc., and sent the letter via certified mail to a different address. She also advised that she e-mailed the company again, after also confirming the e-mail address, to request an application package prior to the next Board of Health meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Review and consider approval of updates to the Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Plan

The Members considered revisions to the EDS layout plan, aerial plan, Quick Start Guide, Important Contact Information, Security Agreement, and Site Agreement. The Members requested additional revisions to the EDS layout plan and Security Agreement. Ms. Levison will confirm the location of the loading docks at the EDS site for further revision to the aerial plan. Ms. Flynn will advise Ms. Darlagiannis that the BOH Members noted the Quick Start Guide does not include the task of determining and stocking supplies at a location separate from the administration site. Ms. Levison also noted that the BOH would like to incorporate lessons learned from the drive-through test kit distribution and testing of students in January 2021 into the EDS plan. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison agreed to send these comments to Ms. Flynn to be shared with Ms. Darlagiannis for future consideration.

Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Plan, and that the BOH would send comments that the BOH would ask Ms. Darlagiannis to strongly consider; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

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

The Members reviewed and revised the "Welcome to Stow" and "About the BOH" documents to be included in the "Welcome Wagon" materials.

Update re installing the dial/algae sign on Pond Road

Mr. Mitchell indicated that installation of the sign is on track for early June.

PFAS: Update, including but not limited to report from Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting (5/11/23)

The Members agreed to table this report until the next meeting when Ms. McCarthy is present.

Continued discussion of activities for Stroke Awareness Month (May)

Mr. Mitchell indicated that the BOH has completed all awareness tasks that it has capacity for at this time.

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

Ms. Levison reported that of the thirty-two responses she received to her survey, only 19 respondents have Styrofoam to recycle at this time. She suggested this does not warrant a collection in June and recommended that the BOH plan a collection for June of 2024.

Consider BOH spending prior to May 31st

Mr. Mitchell suggested that Ms. Flynn make office supply purchases prior to the Department's move to Hildreth House. Ms. Flynn indicated that she would be visiting the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center to identify whether they have any of the needed office supplies for repurpose. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Levison suggested she consider purchasing a new desk chair.

Ms. Levison indicated that the Library is considering hosting a Tick Talk and is willing to collaborate with the Board of Health. She suggested that the BOH could advertise this on a townwide mailing.

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

Ms. Levison reported that Ms. Thompson does not think there is adequate space for textile recycling bins at the new Council on Aging Building, so they will have to be placed at Hildreth House.

Action Items

Ms. Flynn agreed to send the BOH Members an updated list of action items.

MINUTES

The Members agreed to table the review of draft Minutes for a future meeting.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed. Mr. Mitchell noted the days of his vacation and deputized Ms. Levison as Acting Chair in his absence. Ms. Levison noted that she will not be available for the meeting on June 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Levison made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m. Mr. Mitchell seconded. Both were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Posted Agenda
- 2023 Draft Harvard EDS Plan documents: Quick Start Guide, Important Contact Info., Layout Plan, Aerial Layout, EDS Agreement (w/Schools), EDS Security Agreement (w/HPD)
- Draft revisions to the “Welcome to Stow” document
- Draft revisions to the “About the BOH” document
- Updated FY23 Status of Spending spreadsheet