

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
July 11, 2023
Approved: July 25, 2023

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

Others Attending, including but not limited to: Alison Flynn, Board of Health Clerk; Jim Garreffi, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health; Evan Carloni, Innovative Septic Designs.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Ms. Flynn provided remote meeting instructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on Board of Health Chair for FY24

Ms. McCarthy stated she would be willing to act as BOH Chair in FY24. Ms. Levison made a motion to nominate Ms. McCarthy as Chair for FY24; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by unanimous vote. Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy thanked Mr. Mitchell for a job well done as Chair in FY23.

7 Cameron Road: Consider request for local upgrade approval for remedial use

Mr. Carloni presented a request for relief of the requirement for a 4-foot offset to groundwater in connection with the replacement of an approximately 15-year-old failed system. He requested approval of a 2-foot offset because of some breakout elevations, to save a few trees, and for aesthetic reasons because the system will be in the front yard. Mr. Carloni confirmed that the proposed system is in the area of a prior system, portions of which will be removed before the install. Mr. Garreffi indicated that he does not have a problem with the 2-foot offset request in this case. Mr. Carloni stated that it is not clear why the most recent system failed but suggested that the shrubs planted over the system and close proximity to the tree line may have allowed for root impact. The BOH Members asked Mr. Carloni advise the property owners of the DEP's guidance for care of septic systems. He agreed and noted that the proposed plan includes a barrier along the tree line to help protect against roots.

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to grant the local upgrade approval and allow the 2-foot reduction in offset to groundwater; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Report from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Executive Committee and Quarterly Meetings

Mr. Garreffi indicated that the most significant news coming out of the meeting was the decision to close the Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice Service. He explained that over the past year

NABH has struggled to find nursing staff and has suffered significant financial losses. He indicated that they stopped taking VNA and hospice patients as of June 30th and are working on discharging patients safely to other agencies. He indicated this change will not affect the Public Health nursing services in town or the Town's assessment.

Report from the DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar

No report was given as the webinar was cancelled by the DPH. Ms. McCarthy stated that there will also be only one DPH webinar in the month of August.

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

- Ms. Flynn advised that she was not receiving the weekly arbovirus reports but has confirmed with the State that she will receive them going forward. Ms. Levison stated that there was one WNV mosquito sample found in Brookline the week prior.
- Mr. Garreffo reported that he received the notice of a 40B application for Old Mill and Ayer Road which he will review and prepare comments on for the next meeting. Ms. Flynn advised that the proposed project is for twelve duplexes for a total of 60 bedrooms. Mr. Garreffo indicated that they will need a Public Water Supply and that he advised the engineer at a pre-submittal meeting that they will likely need wastewater treatment.
- Mr. Garreffo confirmed that the Planning Board has given approval of the Badminton complex at 203 Ayer Road, to include one building with the badminton courts and two other buildings. The proposed badminton facility has a proposed septic system that is mostly designed and commented on by himself last fall. He indicated that he has not seen any proposed septic plans for the two other buildings on the property which must have mixed use per Zoning requirements. He explained that any uses for those other buildings will bump the design flows to over 2,000 gallons/day for the facility and necessitate wastewater treatment requirements for all systems, including the badminton facility. Mr. Garreffo explained that if the badminton system is permitted and installed prior to design review of the other buildings, the badminton system would need to be upgraded thereafter to install wastewater treatment ahead of the leaching area.
- Mr. Garreffo reported that he began algal bloom protocols at Bare Hill Pond that morning, including pulling a sample for the fluorometer and measuring with the secchi disc. He indicated that he believes the conditions were good, but he would like to confirm his findings based on prior procedures with Mr. Grossman. He indicated that the water at the dock appeared clear to the Pond bottom. Ms. Levison noted that she and Ms. Flynn were at the Pond in the morning to observe the drone mapping and sampling of the Pond coordinated by the Bare Hill Pond Committee. The group discussed the Pond Committee's successful efforts to reduce the phosphorus over the years and conflicting thoughts on whether runoff contributes to the algal blooms. Ms. Levison also noted that DPH posted a list of 50 beaches (fresh and salt water) across MA that are currently closed.

PERMITS

Septic

- Mr. Garreffo indicated that he issued the permit for 31 Still River Road consistent with approved for local upgrade requests granted at the last meeting.

Waste Hauler

Mr. Garreffo reported that he has prepared a letter to Pink Dog advising that Guido Services, Inc.,

is not currently permitted and requiring Pink Dog to have the dumpster removed from the premises.

OLD BUSINESS

Further consideration of August Board of Health meeting schedule

Ms. Flynn reported that in reviewing dates of availability for a single meeting in August, Tuesday the 8th would be most optimal as both she and Mr. Garreffo can be present, and she will be available to prepare the Members for the meeting in the week prior. She indicated that the BOH Members may also want to consider an August 29th meeting, as all would be available and the next BOH meeting thereafter would be September 12th. The BOH Members agreed to a meeting on 8/8/23 and to consider a meeting on 8/29/23 if necessary.

Further consideration of draft revisions to Article II: Private Wells § 145-18: Water sampling and quality testing requirements

The group further considered proposed revisions to the water quality section of the Private Wells regulation. Mr. Garreffo advised that he spoke to Joe Cerruti at MassDEP, who helped develop the model regulation, regarding the section on radionuclides. He confirmed that to be the most protective of public health the property owner should be testing for radium if the gross alpha results are over 5 pCi/L and the property owner should be testing for radium and uranium if the gross alpha results are over 15 pCi/L. Mr. Garreffo stated that he'd like to talk to the labs about whether it would be possible to hold a sample until the gross alpha results come back to help streamline the process for the property owner. It would be an added lab cost if radium and uranium is still needed but would not require another sampling fee or scheduling of a sampler to revisit the property. Mr. Garreffo indicated that Mr. Cerruti suggested the hold time would not affect the sample, but this should be confirmed with the lab. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he'd like to also prepare a flow chart to help the property owner understand the process for sampling and testing with time frames. Mr. Mitchell suggested this be incorporated into the guidance documents. The group discussed continued outreach efforts to ensure that brokers and homeowners are aware of the requirements. The Members agreed to consider the revisions at one more meeting before a public hearing is scheduled.

Continued discussion of July Tick Talk

Ms. Levison indicated that she will be at the Tick Talk with informational handouts and tick removers available. She stated that Mr. Osborne of the Harvard Press contacted her to see if a recording will be available and she confirmed that Harvard Cable TV will do so.

Mr. Garreffo exited the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Update re installing the dial/algae sign on Pond Road

Mr. Mitchell reported that the sign will be completed this weekend and installed thereafter.

Update re installation of satellite phone bases at EDS and Public Safety Buildings

Ms. Levison stated she was waiting on purchases until the next fiscal year.

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

Ms. Levison stated she will revisit the issue with Mr. Kilhart now that the COA has moved from Hildreth House. She indicated that the plan is to place the bins in the middle parking lot at Hildreth House.

PFAS: Update

Mr. Mitchell stated he will reach out for an update from the RAB working meeting which he was unable to attend.

Action Items

Action items were reviewed. Ms. Flynn will recirculate any outstanding action items. Ms. Levison stated she may submit separate comments on the proposed Open Space and Planned Residential Development bylaw as she was not present to contribute to the comments prepared at the last meeting.

MINUTES

The Members reviewed the proposed revisions to the draft Minutes of 6/12/23. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the Minutes of 6/12/23; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

The Members reviewed the proposed revisions to the draft Minutes of 6/27/23. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the Minutes of 6/27/23 as amended; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll vote.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCarty made a motion to adjourn at 5:31 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Posted Agenda
- Draft Minutes of 6/12/23 and 6/27/23
- 7 Cameron Road: Proposed plan, LU Conditions form, and request letter
- August meeting availability calendar
- Action items from 6/27/23
- Proposed revisions to Private Wells, Water Quality section
- Draft agenda for 7/25/23