

## Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes

### Tuesday, May 9, 2017

### Town Hall

*Board Members present:* Libby Levison; Tom Philippou (entered at 2:15 p.m.); Sharon McCarthy, Chair

*Attending:* Ira Grossman, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Laura Vilain, Harvard Press (who noted she was recording); Timothy Kilhart, Department of Public Works (“DPW”) Director; Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BoH”) Clerk.

*Ms. McCarthy called meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Meetings with Citizens/companies
  - 2:15- Beaver Management, Tim Kilhart, DPW Director

Mr. Kilhart provided the BOH with a “Beaver Maintenance Program” information sheet with bulleted points. He listed 6 currently active beaver locations and 8 past locations in Harvard. Ms. Levison requested clarification on some of the locations. Ms. Levison also asked about activity at Mill Rd. Mr. Kilhart indicated that he is unaware of an incident there. Ms. Levison also asked for clarification of “May St.” under past areas. Ms. Levison noted that the Ryan Field location was not listed. Mr. Kilhart confirmed that his list was not inclusive of all past areas.

Sharon asked if there is a database kept of where beaver have been managed in the past. Tim indicated that there is not.

There was a general discussion regarding emergency v. maintenance v. eradication. Mr. Kilhart expressed that DPW is most concerned with areas that impact the roadways.

Mr. Philippou entered at 2:15 p.m.

Mr. Kilhart has an active contract with Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions which includes quarterly maintenance on the deceiver sites.

Mr. Kilhart presented a request that 10 emergency permits be pre-signed. He indicated that he would notify the BOH when a permit was being used and provide us with a copy of the same. He suggested he would then report back to the BOH with results.

Mr. Kilhart indicated in past experiences they have always been able to manage a beaver situation within 10 days. He stated that the trapper will stop trapping after trapping the problem beavers, and but is willing to return if necessary.

Mr. Grossman reminded the Board that the Dept of Fish and Wildlife allows trapping of beaver between Nov 1 and April 15 each year (see Regulation CMR...). Between April 15 and Nov 1 each year, if it is necessary to trap beaver, the Board of Health can issue permits on an emergency basis.

Mr. Kilhart and Ms. McCarthy agreed that the data will be tracked regarding the number of beaver trapped and the location of the trapping.

Mr. Kilhart indicated there are high incident times in the Fall as the beavers ready for winter, and again in the Spring when the kits are kicked out and looking to find their new home.

Mr. Kilhart reminded the BOH that each permit can be used to trap multiple beavers for 10 days at one location. He brought 6 permits (one for each active beaver location) that he was requesting the BOH approve.

There was continued discussion regarding the difference between emergency & preventative beaver management. Mr. Kilhart expressed his concerns regarding the risks his employees take when they try to break up beaver dams.

Ms. Levison indicated concern about the possibility of pets getting caught in traps, and the total number of beavers being trapped. Mr. Kilhart indicated that he had never heard of any incidents with pets inadvertently being injured in traps, and reiterated that the permits are only good for 10 days and the trapper is responsible for the beavers trapped.

Mr. Philippou moved to allow six emergency permits be signed for trapping of beavers at the active locations noted in his handout, for the period of 5/10- 5/20/17, in compliance with Massachusetts guidelines for beaver trapping. Ms. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. McCarthy, aye; Ms. Levison, aye; Mr. Philippou, aye.

Ms. Levison moved that should DPW discover an additional emergency beaver situation, any member of the BOH or Mr. Grossman would be authorized to sign a permit between meetings with notification to the BOH. Mr. Kilhart indicated that he would then provide the BOH with a copy of that additional permit. Mr. Philippou seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. McCarthy, aye; Ms. Levison, aye; Mr. Philippou, aye.

b. Tobacco 21 Initiative- Ms. Levison opened the discussion with support for the initiative. Mr. Philippou also voiced support for health reasons, but stated that the age of majority in the Commonwealth is 18 which bestows rights and responsibilities on the individual which should not be infringed upon. Ms. McCarthy commented that there was a compelling argument presented by Dr. Lester that the military would benefit from Tobacco 21. The whole BOH was in favor from a public health standpoint.

Ms. McCarthy indicated that she would like Harvard's regulations to include all nicotine-containing products, including e-cigarettes. Mr. Grossman confirmed that e-cigarettes are included in the proposed regulations of the Tobacco 21 initiative.

Mr. Philippou moved to endorse the Tobacco 21 initiative. Ms. Levison seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. McCarthy, aye; Ms. Levison, aye; Mr. Philippou, aye.

Mr. Grossman indicated he will get the paperwork together on the process to update the BoH regulations to be discussed at a future meeting.

- c. Response to the Town Planner regarding Master Plan recommendations- Mr. Philippou reminded the BOH that draft memorandum including Ms. Levison's edits had already been accepted. Ms. McCarthy will finalize the response and deliver it to Mr. Scanlan.
- d. Discussion of the posting about private well recommendations on the DPW website- Ms. McCarthy indicated she will send a memo thanking the DPW for bringing attention to this issue and advising that the BOH has links to more current information on our site. Tom suggested the DPW might include a link to the BOH website.
- e. Stable permit 347 Littleton Rd.- Ms. Levison advised the Board that although the Board issued one permit for this property earlier this year, since the property has now been sold, the new owners require a new stable permit. Ms. Levison and Ms. Flynn are to issue the permit issued the next time they're in the office.
- f. Review of historical Memorandum of Understanding on mold in Hildreth Elementary School- Ms. McCarthy advised that in light of upcoming school renovations or construction, all members be familiar with the history of the mold issue by reviewing available files.
- g. Update from Health Agent and BOH clerk- The gross alpha results from Rock Well #05G (Pond Rd. #2), tested 4/12/17, were received. The results were 1.2, +/- 1.1 PCI/L, significantly lower than the previous test results. The Harvard Press will be notified.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Waste haulers: Update on Sullivan- Confirmation of liability insurance for M. Sullivan & Sons is still pending. It was agreed that a reminder letter will be sent.
- b. 32 Madigan Lane, CSMP Registry of Deeds update- Ms. Flynn will follow-up with the Finance Director.
- c. Drought update- Adequate rainfall has alleviated the drought condition. The BOH website will be updated.
- d. Desk coverage- A schedule was agreed to.
- e. Meet Charter Commission--The BOH meeting of 5/23 at 7pm will be moved to 2 pm to accommodate a meeting with the Charter Commission.
- f. Article IV- It was agreed that Article IV has been updated and will be posted.
- g. Action points from the last meeting were reviewed.

**PERMITS-** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** None.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Ms. McCarthy moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. Ms. Levison seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. McCarthy, aye; Ms. Levison, aye; Mr. Philippou, aye.

***Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Flynn, Clerk***

*Documents Referenced:*

- *DPW's "Beaver Maintenance Program" information sheet;*
- *DPH letter of February 14, 2001 re: Guidance for Boards of Health Implementing MGL c. 131, s.80A;*
- *Sample of BOH Application for Emergency Permit to Manage a Health Threat Caused by a Beaver or Muskrat;*
- *Sample 10-Day Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit;*
- *DPW posting re National Ground Water Awareness Week, and Private Well Owner Tip Sheet posted by the National Ground Water Association;*
- *Memorandum of Understanding of 8/2/05 concerning K-Wing at Hildreth Elementary School;*
- *Letter from Dr. Lester Hartman regarding Tobacco 21;*
- *Gross Alpha results of 4/21/17 regarding Rock Well #5 (Pond Rd. 2).*