

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Approved: April 24, 2018

BoH Members present: Libby Levison; Sharon McCarthy, Chair; Tom Philippou.

Attending: Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”); Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BoH”) Clerk; Tim Van Sipe, Muddy Water Coffee Roasters (“Muddy Water”); Karen Strickland, Bromfield Athletic Advisory; Ben Myers, Resident/soccer coach; Brian McClain, Pond Committee; Chris Rogers, Platt Builders.

Ms. McCarthy called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

NEW BUSINESS-

a. Muddy Water Coffee Roasters Application for Food Service Permit (Mobile Food)- Mr. Van Sipe described his current coffee roasting business located at the “Appleworks Building”, 325 Ayer Road, and his request for a food permit to operate his coffee truck in Harvard. He showed the BOH members photographs of his truck and described its 25 gallon freshwater tank and 33 gallon gray water tank, as well as his pour-over method for prepping the coffee. He confirmed that the method makes very little waste water and that the filters are not reused, so washing is not necessary. Waste water will be pumped out at a site designed to accept waste water from e.g. campers. Mr. Van Sipe understood and agreed that that he will not dump the gray water at his “Appleworks” space. Ms. Levison asked that Mr. Van Sipe notify the BOH if he plans to make any changes to the operation. Mr. Grossman will advise Bridgette Braley that the BOH’s concerns with permit issuance have been resolved.

b. Discussion regarding ground source heat pumps- Ms. Levison indicated that she recently attended meeting regarding the HeatSmart grant awarded to Harvard (for installation of air and ground source heat pumps) and that she thinks that the BOH will see more applications for ground source heat pumps in the near future. Mr. Grossman indicated that Harvard does not have a regulation for geothermal wells. He indicated that there are already a few geothermal wells in Harvard, permitted through the general well application process. He advised that Groton was proactive and increased the offsets of MA DEP’s regulation regarding ground source heat pumps in their local regulation. Mr. Grossman will prepare a chart comparing the MA DEP regulation regarding ground source heat pumps to Harvard’s existing regulation regarding wells so that the BOH members can consider whether they would like to prepare a geothermal well regulation.

c. Update from the Transfer Station Committee- Mr. Philippou reported that the Committee had decided at their meeting of last week to push the implementation to July 1, 2019 due to time

constraints. DPW director Tim Kilhart recommended to the Transfer Station Committee that a second paper compactor would be needed shortly to accommodate the increase in cardboard. Funding for the same may be partially addressed via grant application and a warrant at Special Town Meeting would be necessary.

Mr. Philippou also reported that they have been advised that a community glass crushing device may be installed in Groton or Devens in the future. The device would crush glass to aggregate which is more valuable. Harvard would then pay for the hauling to the site of the crusher and receive some rebate for the sale of the aggregate.

d. Update from Health Agent & BoH Clerk-

- Mr. Grossman reported that he drove by 58 Blanchard, whose Order to Correct gives until 3/28/18 for removal, and there was still rubbish and mattresses in the yard.
- Mr. Grossman reported that Nick Deane contacted Jim Garreffi at NABH regarding whether a tight tank at the "Appleworks" building was an option, and Mr. Garreffi confirmed that it was not. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she was also contacted directly by Mr. Deane, and she will respond in kind.
- Mr. Philippou reported that he attended a Massachusetts Association of Health Boards presentation on marijuana on the morning of the meeting, and found it very informative.
- The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft document for The Harvard Press clarifying the article regarding the ZBA hearing on Craftsman Village. Ms. Levison will finalize the document and send it to the Press.

OLD BUSINESS-

a. Continued discussion re synthetic turf (7:10 p.m.)- Ms. Strickland explained that the discussion originated as the Athletic Advisory Committee is preparing for the loss of a softball/baseball field if the town votes to build a new elementary school, and is considered how the Pond Road Field can be prepared for additional use. She explained that the possible installation of synthetic turf was her idea, as teams are currently renting space to play on synthetic turf fields in other towns because the Harvard fields are not in good condition for playing, especially early in the season. The Athletic Advisory Committee said that they believe that synthetic turf allows for more continuous play and that the Pond Road Field could accommodate softball, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse. The Committee plans a feasibility study to evaluate grass turf versus synthetic turf. Ms. Strickland indicated that they are hoping the project will be privately funded, and want the field to be an asset to the Town.

Ms. Flynn provided the participants with written comments from the Department of Public Works ("DPW") Director, Tim Kilhart, who was unable to attend the BOH meeting. The BOH members indicated that protection of the Town wells, located just below the playing fields, is a big concern when considering the use of synthetic turf, and urged Ms. Strickland to look into the studies, grants, and projects listed on the UMASS Lowell Toxic Use Research Institute ("TURI") website. Mr. McClain also questioned the possible materials that would be used and the maintenance of the same. He noted that disposal costs of synthetic turf at replacement time are similar to that of installation. Ms. McCarthy

indicated that the advantage to rebuilding with real grass and appropriate drainage is that you never have to do it again. Mr. Myers responded that one concern with real grass is that Harvard has chronically not maintained the fields. Ms. Levison pointed out that she believed one of the TURI 2018 grants was working on a grass field in Ayer and Ms. McCarthy added that TURI grants include education for DPW regarding managing the field. Ms. Strickland indicated that she would report back with more information once the initial feasibility was complete.

b. Continued discussion regarding outreach for potential volunteers for Emergency Dispensary Site- Ms. Levison offered to draft a letter to be sent to volunteer groups in Town.

c. Review action points from last meeting- The action points from the last meeting were reviewed.

PERMITS- The BOH members reviewed and issued the following septic permit:

- 121 Old Littleton Road- variance request- Chris Rogers, Project Manager for Platt Builders, was present on behalf of the homeowners. Mr. Grossman indicated the BOH gave a variance to the prior homeowners for a 4 bedroom system. The new owners have applied for a 7 bedroom permit, and have accommodated for the same by raising the length of the leaching field by three feet, and lengthening trenches by 2 feet, on the revised plan. Mr. Grossman indicated that all the test holes meet the State's requirement for 4 feet of naturally occurring soil, but not all meet Harvard's requirement for 5 feet of naturally occurring soil. Mr. Grossman advised that he does not have any problem with granting this variance.

Mr. Philippou made the motion to grant the requested variance; Ms. Levison seconded. A vote was taken; all were in favor.

The BOH members reviewed and issued the following stable permit:

- 42 Bolton Road- Ms. Levison made a motion to issue the stable permit; Mr. Philippou seconded. A vote was taken; all were in favor.

Ms. Flynn offered the following updated regarding Trash Hauler permits:

- Baker Commodities- Ms. Flynn received a confirmation e-mail that Baker Commodities is only hauling food waste in Harvard. She will issue a permit, as decided at the March 20th meeting.
- Harvard Outdoor Power Equipment provided the BOH office with a commercial generator exemption form at Fiore Trucking's request.
- D&D Disposal- Ms. Flynn mailed D&D a letter indicating the BOH expects work in Harvard to be stopped and inviting a representative to the April 10th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- No draft minutes were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Philippou moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.; Ms. Levison seconded. A vote was taken; all were in favor.

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

Documents Referenced:

- MA DEP's Guidelines for Ground Source Heat Pump Wells
- Draft document for The Harvard Press re Craftsman Village Harvard
- Written comments from DPW re potential synthetic turf at the Pond Field
- "Streets" file: 121 Old Littleton Road
- Stable permit application: 42 Bolton Road
- Letter and commercial generator exemption form from Harvard Outdoor Power Equipment
- Letter to D&D Disposal of March 21, 2018