

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**  
**Approved: August 25, 2020**

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

*Attending:* Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BOH”) Clerk; Mark Lavallee, GPR, Inc; Diandra Bilodeau, homeowner, 134 Old Littleton Road; Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press.

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

Ms. Flynn read aloud the BOH Remote Meeting Preamble, including Confirmation of Member Access, the Introduction to Remote Meeting, and Meeting Business Ground Rules.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Ms. Eliyesil asked to reserve her questions until later in the meeting; Ms. McCarthy agreed. Ms. Eliyesil later asked whether there was a Press Release received from MDAR regarding mailings of unsolicited seeds; the BOH members indicate they have not yet received a Press Release, but learned of the issue during a Department of Public Health (DPH) conference call. Ms. Eliyesil also asked the BOH to clarify its roll in schools reopening. The members indicated that they are available to advise the schools, but that guidelines are being developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) with guidance from other agencies. The BOH members also stated that the BOH/Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) will become involved in the event there is a positive case within the schools.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. 162 East Bare Hill Road: Well variance request hearing- Mr. Lavallee presented a well variance request on behalf of the homeowners which reduces the offset from the wetland buffer zone by 30 feet. The Board of Health Members reviewed the proposed site plan, and Ms. Levison questioned the location of the proposed well. Mr. Lavallee explained the proposed location was decided based on the existence of shallow depth to ledge consistent throughout other areas of the site. He indicated that one alternate location would require double the service line length and extensive blasting through the driveway and the pasture, and cause more site disturbance. Ms. Flynn advised that Mr. Grossman indicated he would not oppose approving the variance request. Mr. Lavallee confirmed that the Conservation Commission approved the plan. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the request as presented; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Levison made the motion to take septic permit for 162 East Bare Hill out of order; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. The Members reviewed GPR’s variance request letter and Local Upgrade Conditions Form of July 15, 2020, and proposed septic plan. Mr. Lavallee explained that the shallow depth to ledge throughout the site has resulted in no more than 4 feet of naturally occurring soil. He indicated that the proposed septic is in the best location possible, but require a 2 foot offset to ledge for the Presby system, as allowed with Title

5. He also explained that the zero offset to failing deep holes noted on the Local Upgrade Conditions Form reflects that there are zero test holes that found 4 feet of naturally occurring soil. Mr. Lavallee indicated that the proposed system is fully compliant with Title 5, and is an upgrade to the existing cesspool. Ms. Flynn advised that Mr. Grossman indicated he does not have any objections to approving the permit with variances as requested. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the permit with allowances as requested; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

b. 134 Old Littleton Road: Consideration of request for a three bedroom deed restriction- The members reviewed the proposed plans for an addition to the existing home. Ms. Bilodeau explained that upon submission for a building permit, Mr. Grossman suggested a three-bedroom deed restriction would be appropriate for this three-bedroom approved system. Ms. Bilodeau indicated that soil testing upon installation proved a four-bedroom septic system would not be possible on the site, and is comfortable with recording a three-bedroom deed restriction. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the three-bedroom deed restriction; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. It was agreed that Mr. Mitchell will execute the deed restriction on behalf of the BOH. The BOH further decided that once Ms. Bilodeau provides the BOH with a copy of the deed restriction filed electronically or proof of mailing to the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Mr. Grossman will approve the building permit.

c. Review draft "Consider This" article regarding arbovirus mitigation- the members briefly discussed Ms. Levison's draft and agreed to meet again on August 3<sup>rd</sup> for a short meeting to approve additional revisions. Ms. McCarthy agreed to contact Tim Clark for data regarding the number of houses set back off the road.

d. Discussion re requesting testing of the Ryan Field well for PFAS- Ms. McCarthy advised that a neighbor to Ryan Field questioned whether the Ryan Field Well was tested for PFAS. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the neighbor's private well PFAS test results were below the State proposed standard. Department of Public Works Director, Tim Kilhart, advised Ms. McCarthy that the Ryan Field Well has not been tested. The BOH members agreed that as all other municipal wells have been tested and it is adjacent to a private well showing some levels of PFAS, they will recommend to the Select Board that PFAS testing be requested of the Ryan Field Well by the Army. Ms. McCarthy volunteered to prepare a written recommendation.

e. Discussion re local Covid-19 testing and vaccination programs: Possible interest and steps to take- Mr. Mitchell indicated that he was approached separately by a resident and a Select Board Member with questions about whether Harvard would offer testing and vaccination. He stated that he had a brief discussion with Jason Cotting who indicated that Harvard Ambulance Service is already approved to test, and could get approval relatively quickly for the EMTs to vaccinate with oversight. Mr. Mitchell asked that the BOH consider whether this might be something they want to pursue. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the BOH does not have a current budget for testing in Harvard. The members agreed that given the current number of cases in Harvard, a testing site might not make sense. Ms. Levison suggested that vaccination clinics might be run by NABH, and suggested that Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness would likely provide guidance if the BOH will need to set up an Emergency Dispensing Site.

f. Fruitlands Open Air Craft Market: Status of self-certification- Ms. McCarthy reported that she and Mr. Grossman reviewed Fruitlands' thoughtful plan for an open air craft market in September. She stated that while they do not need to be approved by the BOH they will need

to self-certify. Their plan seems quite consistent with the existing guidelines. Ms. McCarthy stated she provided Fruitlands with a response and suggested they revisit the guidance closer to the date of their event. Ms. Levison asked whether the Fruitlands plan for their “Picnic Fridays” to watch the sunset should also be reviewed. Ms. McCarthy indicated that based on the thorough craft market plan, she believes Fruitlands understands the guidelines and will apply them consistently to their events.

g. Bromfield High School graduation plans- Ms. McCarthy reported that Bromfield High School Principal Scott Hoffman e-mailed the BOH to ask if we would be willing to review the graduation plan, but she never received a copy of the plan, as requested. The members agreed that School will have to self-certify for the event.

h. Update from the Emergency Response Team- Ms. Levison indicated that she would like to suggest Chief Denmark’s prior proposal to close Prospect Hill parking for 30 days is reconsidered at this time. The other members were not opposed to this idea.

i. Update from recent Department of Public Health conference calls- As all members were present for the day’s conference call, an update was not needed. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she was surprised at the announcement regarding mailings of unsolicited seeds. The members requested Ms. Flynn e-mail the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, and Garden Club to request their assistance in publicizing the concerns and instructions of MDAR and DPH.

j. Update from Harvard School Reopening Task Force meetings- Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy provided an update as to the progress made by the School Task Force regarding reopening. Mr. Mitchell indicated that they have developed proposed plans which are very consistent with those of the State. He indicated that next steps include public forums for the high school, elementary and special education communities. The plans will then go to the School Committee for approval by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and to the State by August 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the Schools currently intend to recommend a hybrid and distant learning plan, but acknowledged that plans have to be fluid. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy agreed that the Schools have done a very thorough job, and have identified that a pinch point will be providing compliant transportation from Devens. Ms. McCarthy noted that the elementary school has taken early delivery of desks originally purchased for the new building. She also stated that the plans include snack breaks, but that the students will eat lunch at home. Ms. McCarthy noted that she offered advice regarding increased ventilation and emphasizing cleaning of surfaces.

k. Clerk Update

- Ms. Flynn asked the Board Members if they had considered the invitation of Chris Ryan, Director of Community and Economic Development, to attend a presentation/listening session regarding use of GIS mapping. Mr. Mitchell suggested it might be worthwhile for he and Ms. Flynn to attend the session. It was agreed that both will complete the Doodle Poll regarding their availability.
- Ms. Levison advised of the e-mail received from Jane Biering of the Planning Board regarding the status of the BOH’s progress on Master Plan tasks.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. COVID-19: Continued response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's Orders and MA guidelines- Ms. McCarthy reported that she received notice from the Attorney General's Office about a complaint that Grapevine Liquor Store proprietors are not wearing masks and there is no social distancing between proprietors and customers. Mr. Grossman will follow-up on the complaint.

Ms. Levison indicated she received a photograph of boys playing soccer without distancing on the Pond Road Field. The BOH members discussed efforts already made to educate Parks & Recreation and the Harvard Athletic Club about sports guidelines. They agreed Ms. Levison should ask Dr. Dwight at an Emergency Response Team meeting if there is someone with the Schools to whom she should bring this concern.

Mr. Mitchell stated he was disappointed to see that people at the Transfer Station are not wearing masks and believes we need to take a hard line because the Transfer Station is one of the few locations where Harvard residents congregate as a community. The members agreed. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to request electronic signage that encourages use of masks at the Transfer Station for anyone outside their car; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. McCarthy will write Mr. Kilhart, copying Mr. Bragan and Ira, to request such signage.

b. Arbovirus mitigation: Continued discussion regarding the MA 2020 Arbovirus Surveillance and Mitigation Plan, and consideration of possible town-wide EEE awareness mailing and updates to the BOH website- Ms. McCarthy advised that she sent Ms. Flynn language for an e-alert. Ms. Levison indicated that she will review the mosquito webpage and will send Ms. Flynn comments prior to the e-alert being sent.

Ms. Levison suggested that a few bullets could be pulled from the "Consider This" article to prepare a Town-wide mailing. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mitchell suggested the "Consider This" is a step in outreach, and a town-wide mailing might not be necessary.

c. Discuss drought status and messaging- Mr. Mitchell stated that he prepared a draft but will wait until the next update before asking Ms. McCarthy to send out an e-alert.

d. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed.

## **PERMITS**

a. 184 Old Littleton Road: Revised stable permit application- The revised septic permit application and attached layout plan was reviewed by the Board Members. Ms. Flynn advised that Conservation Agent, Liz Allard, reviewed and approved the layout plan, and Mr. Grossman's only concern was regarding the distance to haul the manure in the winter. Ms. Levison made the motion to grant the stable permit; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

b. 162 East Bare Hill Road: Septic permit- The minutes of this permit discussion are listed above, under New Business.

## **MINUTES**

Ms. Levison made the motion to accept the minutes of 7/14/20 as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA-** Items for the next agenda were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Ms. Levison made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All members were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

**Documents Referenced:**

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 7/14/20
- 184 Old Littleton Road: Revised stable permit application
- 162 East Bare Hill Road: Septic permit, proposed SDS Plan, Local Upgrade Conditions form, Well Variance Request Letter, Septic Variance Request Letter
- 134 Old Littleton Road: Proposed building plan and proposed bedroom deed restriction
- Draft “Consider This” article regarding arbovirus mitigation
- Photograph of boys playing soccer on Pond Road Field