

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
June 22, 2021
Approved: July 13, 2021

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

Attending (Including but not limited to): Alison Flynn, Clerk, Harvard Board of Health (“BOH”); Ira Grossman, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (“NABH”).

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Report from attendance at cyanobacteria monitoring training with Hilary Snook – Ms. McCarthy reported on her attendance at the training held in Wrentham which was also attended by three Bare Hill Pond Committee Members. Ms. McCarthy stated that the training consisted of a presentation by Mr. Snook, US EPA Region I Laboratory, located in Chelmsford, followed by training at stations in sampling, microscope identification, and fluorometer use. She indicated that she has full confidence that Mr. Grossman will be able to sample and perform analysis for cyanobacteria as presented by Mr. Snook and his associates from the Region I Laboratory, and described a process which will involve sampling, freezing the samples to lyse the cells, and then reading the samples using the fluorometer 4 hours later. Ms. McCarthy stated that Mr. Snook has assisted in the preparation of a quality assurance manual describing the use of the fluorometer to monitor cyanobacteria; the BOH members agreed to reference that manual in their algae procedures. Ms. McCarthy advised that ancillary equipment, such as sampling tubes and bottles, and ionized water will need to be purchased; days Ms. Levison indicated that the BOH should consider how the samples and results will be stored; Ms. McCarthy advised that the samples will not store over time. Results will be posted as risk levels on the cyanobacteria dial sign posted at the Town Beach. Mr. Grossman confirmed that he is comfortable executing the sampling and analysis as described. As the training indicated that concentrations will vary all over the Pond, it was agreed that it is appropriate to take a sample only at the Town Beach. Ms. McCarthy stated that while she believes Harvard will be one of the first BOH’s in MA using this protocol, Mr. Snook has worked with citizen scientist groups and Lake/Pond Committees to monitor cyanobacteria using this methodology for quite some time.

Ms. McCarthy advised that the benefit in using the fluorometer is that the BOH will know when the concentrations are rising before a bloom is observed. Further, Mr. Grossman confirmed that the turnaround time for lab results last summer was at least three days. Ms. McCarthy pointed out that the Meeting Packet includes an \$1850 quote she received from Amiscience for the fluorometer and its calibration; she will work with Ms. Flynn on preparing the Amiscience Purchase Order and will follow up on her request for a quote for ancillary supplies.

b. Consider attendance at MAHB Educational Sessions re funding for local public health,

vaccine hesitancy, and educating local leaders- As none of the members are available to attend the session regarding funding, Ms. Levison offered to write MAHB to request a recording.

c. Consider submission to The Harvard Press regarding the DEP Private Well Program and/or mosquito surveillance changes- This item was tabled as the sample language promised by DEP regarding the Private Well Program was not received in by Ms. Levison.

d. Report from UMASS Extension Mosquito & Tick Topics- Mr. Mitchell stated that he has not yet received the link to the Tick Talk and will follow-up. Ms. Levison reported that the speakers at the Mosquito Talk were proponents of pesticide use, while recognizing other mosquito control options and highlighted the very small amount used per acre.

e. Update from recent DPH COVID-19 Conference Calls- Ms. Levison reported that over half of the conference call discussed opioid overdoses, and noted that there are On-Your-Time trainings available on the topic. She also reported that the Delta variant is increasing in MA, soon 80% of residents will have at least 1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and that mobile vaccination clinics are available to visit workplaces and communities in MA. Ms. Levison also noted the staffing changes occurring at the State level.

f. Clerk and Health Agent Update

- Ms. Flynn requested approval of reimbursement to Ms. Levison for her registration with the UMASS Extension School for the “Mosquito Topics” webinar. Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve; Ms. McCarthy seconded; Ms. Levison abstained. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy were in favor.
- Ms. Flynn requested approval for issuance of payment for the FY22 local assessment for Minuteman Senior Services. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the invoice; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn indicated that Ms. Levison raised the issue of whether the BOH should post the weekly Town Beach E.coli results. Ms. Levison noted that the Stow BOH posts such results; Mr. Grossman stated he does not believe many other Towns do. Mr. Grossman also confirmed that the BOH would be notified if results are above the MCL. Mr. Mitchell stated that posting results under the MCL could cause confusion and unnecessary alarm. Ms. Flynn will continue to forward the BOH members the weekly lab results.
- 48 Madigan Lane: Mr. Grossman advised that the BOH received another complaint from a neighbor alleging large amounts of goat manure, flies, and odor at this property. Mr. Grossman confirmed his observation of the presence of three large piles of manure totaling approximately 12 cubic yards. The members considered their previous request that the property owner remove the manure three times per year, including one occasion during the summer months, and asked Mr. Grossman to request more frequent removal. Ms. Levison suggested five times per year, with occasions in May, July, and September, would be appropriate. Mr. Grossman will also request submittal of an updated stable permit application.
- 184 Ayer Road: Mr. Grossman advised that the new property owner, Goswick Eye, would like to enter a binding agreement confirming a limited office schedule that would allow for service by a private well v. a Public Water Supply. Mr. Grossman advised that in addition to the office practice, the property owners also intend to offer for rent the two bedroom apartment and included four persons per day for such occupancy in their calculation. Mr. Grossman advised that he does not recommend the BOH approve such an agreement, citing past experiences with difficult enforcement. The BOH members suggested that the property owner provide the BOH with a draft binding agreement for consideration and discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Grossman also informed the BOH

members of the status of the septic; Ms. McCarthy asked Mr. Grossman to inform the property owner that the septic will need to be upgraded to meet current regulations.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued planning for townwide mailing providing arbovirus education- The members reviewed and agreed on revisions to the draft, including a request for the student volunteer, Ms. Aloise, add her own design credit. Ms. Flynn and Ms. Levison will work with Ms. Aloise to finalize the draft before sending it to the printer. Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Flynn will purchase a \$50 gift card to the Harvard General Store to thank Ms. Aloise for her design assistance this year.

b. Further discussion regarding purchasing algal bloom signs and testing equipment- The members discussed additional revisions needed on the algal bloom dial sign design. Mr. Grossman will continue to work with the graphic designer.

c. Continued discussion regarding preparation of best practices for water quality samplers of private wells- Mr. Mitchell will forward Mr. Grossman's comments to Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Levison for their comment.

d. PFAS update, including but not limited to continued discussion re MassDEP Private Well PFAS testing program- Ms. Levison stated she will follow-up with Ms. Briggs for a copy of the program's access agreement and social media wording. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Grossman will follow-up with DEP regarding the policy concerning program participants whose wells test over the MCL and whether they will need to be referred to the Mass. Contingency Program (MCP).

e. Review Action Items- Action items were reviewed.

PERMITS

- 157 Bolton Road: Stable Permit- Mr. Grossman advised that Ms. Allard reviewed the application and had no objection to issuance. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

MINUTES

The BOH members reviewed and revised the draft Minutes of June 8, 2021. Ms. Levison made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. Levison made the motion to adjourn at 8:41 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 6/8/21
- Draft townwide mailing re mosquitoes
- Stable permit application for 157 Bolton Road
- Minuteman Senior Services FY22 Invoice
- Confirmation of Ms. Levison's registration at "Mosquito Topics"
- Amiscience Quote