

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
August 31, 2021
Approved: September 28, 2021

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

Attending (Including but not limited to): Alison Flynn, Clerk, Harvard Board of Health (“BOH”); Doug Thornton, Planning Board liaison.

Ms. Levison called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the remote meeting preamble.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Identify top three action items (priorities/challenges) to be addressed with FY2023 budget-. Ms. Levison suggested quarterly mailings to increase awareness of BOH issues. The BOH members agreed to list the top three action items as to increase Administrative Assistant hours, expand knowledge of public health issues, and to increase public outreach. Ms. Flynn confirmed that she averaged 21-22 hours/week in FY22, but could have used more hours. She also advised that she expects to discuss the inadequacy of her designated hours with Department Head, Chris Ryan, when they sit down for her formal Performance Evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Algal bloom update: Status, review of alert text, and discussion of additional sampling- Ms. Levison advised that the last non-detect results for toxins was pulled on August 22nd. The BOH Members agreed that the recent advisory for maintenance of “No Swimming” is appropriate. The Members requested Ms. Flynn write Water & Sewer Commissioner Chair, Cindy Russo, to confirm that the BOH is still concerned that tap water to hose off boats is not available, and if it cannot be turned back on, the BOH will need to consider closing the ramp. Ms. Flynn requested approval to submit reimbursement for her USPS shipping of the 8/31/21 water sample to the WA lab for analysis. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Flynn confirmed that she sent the final revisions for the dial sign to Mr. Grossman for his communication to the graphic designer. Ms. Levison requested a title change for the sign; the Members agreed. Ms. McCarthy expressed her desire to have the dial sign hanging before Fall Town Meeting.

b. Continued update of Harvard 2021 EDS Plan- The members reviewed and revised select pages from the draft EDS plan. Ms. Flynn will reach out to Ms. Sobalvarro to request her assistance in completing Appendix K, and will confirm with Ms. Nigzus and Mr. Cotting that the School Nurses and EMS would be willing to assist with inoculation.

c. Continued discussion regarding preparation of best practices for water quality samplers of private wells- Ms. Flynn will continue to revise the draft best practices.

d. Continued discussion regarding local mask mandates and local vaccination rates- The BOH Members agreed to issue a statement confirming that the BOH strongly encourages all to wear masks in indoors public spaces. Ms. Flynn will draft a News & Announcement for the website and to be sent to the Press. Ms. McCarthy will ask at the DPH call whether a sign that does not list exemptions to mask mandates encourages MCAD complaints.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA- Mr. Mitchell reminded the Members that he is unable to attend the next BOH Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. McCarthy made the motion to adjourn at 2:01p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Receipt from the USPS for shipping (8/31/21)
- Draft best practices for water quality samplers of private wells
- Select pages from the 2021 EDS Plan