

**Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**September 13, 2022**  
**Approved: September 27, 2022**

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

*Others Attending, including but not limited to:* Jim Garreffi, Health Agent, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH); Joan Eliyesil, The Harvard Press; Pradeep Khurana, 110 Warren Road; Dan Wolfe, David E. Ross Associates.

*Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided remote meeting instructions.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**110 Warren Ave.: Consider request for approval of four-bedroom deed restriction and septic modification & prepare comments to the ZBA**

Mr. Garreffi stated he reviewed the request and plan with Mr. Wolfe and expressed his preference to see a block wall instead of a rock wall to provide a more protective barrier as the wall will be only 10 feet off the edge of the system. Mr. Wolfe agreed that a block wall would provide a more solid surface to lay the poly barrier against. Mr. Garreffi stated that he agrees that a deed restriction is required because they will be adding a 10<sup>th</sup> room. Ms. Flynn agreed to provide the ZBA with a written statement that the BOH has addressed its concerns. Ms. Levison explained to the property owner the need for the deed restriction.

Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the four-bedroom deed restriction for 110 Warren Ave. and that the BOH is favorable to the modification of the septic system as discussed between Mr. Garreffi and Mr. Wolfe; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

**Consider FY24 goals in preparation for All Boards Meeting (9/28/22) & discuss coverage**

The BOH discussed that FY24 goals must allow enough bandwidth to react to public health emergencies. Mr. Mitchell said that after the info overload during COVID-19, the Board should focus on 1-2 issues to be proactive about, such as helping residents understand our rules and regulations. Ms. Levison suggested a guide for residents preparing to put their houses up for sale. Mr. Garreffi stated that he's seen an emerging need to assist residents in understanding drought, as well as with locating and digesting DEP's resources regarding PFAS. Mr. Mitchell noted that DEP is assisting with remediation of PFAS in private wells with results over 70 ppt. The Board also wants to allocate time to be sure all the regulations are up to date. Ms. McCarthy has previously offered to put together a guide on Household cleaning products that you shouldn't use with your septic system. Ms. Levison said that our major financial 'ask' is additional hours for the Administrative Assistant; Mr. Mitchell doesn't believe the All Boards Meeting is the appropriate location, but follow-up is needed. Members will submit suggested goals before the next meeting.

**Prepare comments on draft Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article 5: Adopt Bylaw Allowing Noncriminal Disposition for Certain Town Code Violations & draft Article 6: Adopt Bylaw**

## **Regulating Outdoor Water Usage**

The BOH Members reviewed and revised comments on the draft bylaws. The BOH will reach out to the Police Department, Superintendent, and Town Administrator to discuss whether they are willing to be added as enforcement agencies on select Board of Health regulations.

## **Mailer on recycling, textiles & mattresses banned from Nov 1**

Ms. Levison proposed Mr. Mitchell e-mail her comments on the draft mailer; he agreed. Ms. Levison advised that there are no longer “recycling only” permits for the Transfer Station because the market for recycling dropped. Ms. Levison reported that she spoke to a textile recycling company who would provide additional textile recycling bins to the Town at no-cost to be placed on school or municipal property outside the Transfer Station for use by all residents, including those with curbside pick-up. She indicated that the Town would receive \$100 per ton of textiles collected by the company. Ms. Levison will prepare a draft memo to Mr. Bragan to request support to identify a location for the bins.

## **Report from Coalition for Safe Drinking Water Informational Session**

Ms. Levison reported on her attendance of the information session held by Health Foundation of Central MA & RCAP and indicated that she e-mailed notes on the session to the group on August 31, 2022.

## **Consider revisions to Article I: Sanitation**

Ms. Flynn stated that she prepared draft revisions to the Sanitation Regulation to include the draft tight tank regulation and reorganize the existing regulations to provide clarity. Mr. Mitchell suggested the draft be reviewed after Fall Town Meeting as the outcome of proposed non-criminal disposition bylaw will affect the proposed revisions.

## **Update on Drought and discussion re outreach**

Mr. Mitchell stated he has been in communication with Ms. Eliyesil regarding her drought coverage in The Harvard Press and feels she has been and will do a really nice job covering the issue without the BOH preparing a “Consider This” piece. He indicated that data shows that even with recent rainfall the water table is still low. Ms. Levison stated that the State has been in drought for the past six months. Mr. Mitchell stated that he’d like the BOH to begin on drought education in the early Spring. Ms. Levison indicated that the bi-weekly DPH webinar included sample drought outreach documents that could be very helpful; she’ll send them to Mr. Mitchell for his review.

## **Pond algae update**

Ms. Levison stated that the results from the September 7<sup>th</sup> Bare Hill Pond sample showed a measurable but inconsequential amount of blue green algae. The Members agreed that given the cooler temperatures, current conditions, and timing of sampling pursuant to the Protocols no further lab analysis will occur this season unless conditions dramatically change. Ms. Levison asked that Mr. Garreffi continue fluorometer analysis for two more weeks. Mr. Garreffi noted that the Pond depth went up 2-3 inches from the prior week. Ms. Flynn advised the group that she intends to update the Procedures with Mr. Garreffi’s contact information. The Members agreed that Ms. Levison should stay on as BOH liaison.

## **HHAN EEE/WNV weekly report**

Ms. Flynn advised that the report received that day listed Harvard at low risk for both Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Ms. Levison stated she has not seen any reports of positive EEE mosquito samples this year in MA, but there have been three cases of WNV in humans this year. Ms. Levison also stated that mosquitos carrying WNV generally breed in gutters and are found closer to Boston.

## **COVID-19 Current Status, including consideration of request for additional test kits for distribution**

Ms. Levison advised that she updated the spreadsheet with the COVID-19 case reports. Ms. Flynn indicated that the e-mail from Mr. Bragan inquiring as to whether the BOH would request additional test kits was included in the merged packet. Ms. Levison expressed concern that the time and effort put in to distribution would not be matched by the demand of residents for the kits. Ms. Flynn indicated she would be willing to distribute the kits during her office hours. Ms. Levison stated the library had previously agreed to leave test kits out for residents. Mr. Garreffo indicated that delivery of the kits is expected in mid-October. Ms. Levison will reach out to the Schools and various groups to gauge their interest in receiving kits. It was agreed that if the Schools want kits the BOH will request the full allotment; if not, Mr. Garreffo will request ½ of the allotment on behalf of Harvard.

## **Update from DPH Interagency Local Boards of Health Webinar**

Ms. Levison indicated that her notes from the webinar were circulated via e-mail. She suggested that the DEP page created to advise residents on what to do during a drought be included as a News/Announcement in the future.

## **Clerk and Health Agent Update, including but not limited to:**

- Ms. Levison stated that she has not received a response to her request for clarification of the assessment from Minuteman Senior Services for FY23. Ms. Levison made a motion to issue payment to Minuteman Senior Services consistent with their prior adjusted assessment in the amount of \$1,410.00; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor. Ms. Levison will write Minuteman to explain the discrepancy.
- Ms. Flynn asked the BOH Members to consider approval of three invoices from Aquatic Analysts for analysis of the Bare Hill Pond samples of August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and September 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Levison made the motion to pay the three invoices for \$205.00 each; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote. Ms. Levison asked Ms. Flynn to thank Mr. Sweet for his assistance during this sampling season.
- Ms. Flynn asked the Members to consider the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Invoice No. 2023-209 for FY23 2nd Quarter Nursing and Environmental Services in the amount of \$6,917.14. Ms. Levison made the motion to pay the invoice as stated; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn asked the BOH Members to consider her reimbursement for USPS shipment of the Bare Hill Pond samples of August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup> to Aquatic Analysts. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve reimbursement to Ms. Flynn; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- Ms. Flynn reported that she contacted Waste Management of MA regarding recent complaints received concerning delayed pick-up. She stated that the Waste Management representative indicated that they had pick-up delays due to staffing issues, but that they were back on track. Ms. Flynn asked Waste Management to reach out to the homeowner directly to ensure the issue was resolved. Mr. Mitchell suggested if the issue is not

- resolved, the BOH invite Waste Management to a future meeting.
- Ms. Flynn stated that DPH has scheduled webinars to discuss the upcoming Capacity Assessments as part of the Public Health Excellence grants. Mr. Garreffo stated that he will attend a webinar on our behalf, and the BOH Members and staff will be asked to fill out a survey regarding how well NABH is meeting our needs at a later date. Ms. Levison noted it would be great if the assessments address whether Towns are given adequate staffing and budgets.
- Mr. Garreffo stated that he is in the process of reviewing Harvard's regulations to make sure the transition from Mr. Grossman's assistance is as smooth as possible. He indicated that NABH is currently hiring with some shifting in Health Agents expected through Littleton's withdrawal from NABH in June.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PFAS update**

Ms. Levison reported that she heard from a homeowner in Town who received PFAS results over 30 ppt. She suggested the Board consider at another meeting adding that property owner's Street to the list of addresses required to for PFAS at the time of sale.

### **Review Action Items**

Ms. Flynn agreed to circulate any pending Action Items.

## **PERMITS**

- **Septic: 30 Whitman Road-** The BOH Members reviewed and discussed the application installation of a new Presby system at 30 Whitman Road. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he was not involved in the review process for this permit. Ms. Levison made a motion to approve the septic permit pending confirmation that Mr. Grossman approved the plan for BOH review; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- **Septic: 77 Slough Road-** The Members reviewed the application for a distribution box replacement at 77 Slough Road. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.
- **Marijuana Operating Permit: Coil Bros.-** The Members reviewed the renewal application for Coil Bros. Mr. Garreffo indicated that he had no concerns as the State had oversight over the licensing. The Members discussed that Phase II of the manufacturing plan includes the production of edibles; Ms. Flynn will remind Coil Bros. of the septic limitations at the property and encourage Coil Bros. to contact the BOH to discuss permitting implications prior to pursuing Phase II. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the permit; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 8/16/22 were reviewed and amendments agreed upon. Ms. Levison made the motion to approve the Minutes of 8/16/22 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 9:12 p.m.; Mr. Mitchell seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Alison Flynn, Clerk***

### **Documents Referenced:**

- Agenda
- 110 Warren Ave.- Letter and e-mail from Dan Wolfe, layout plans for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floors, proposed SDS plans, and arch. drawings submitted to the ZBA;
- Draft Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles 5 & 6;
- Email from T. Bragan requesting additional COVID-19 test kits, and e-mails from the COA & Ambulance Service re their current stock;
- Invoices from Aquatic Analysts
- Invoice from NABH
- USPS Receipts
- Coil Bros. application for a (renewal) permit
- Action Items from the last two meetings
- Draft Minutes of 8/16/22
- 77 Slough Road: Septic application and unsigned permit for distribution box replacement;
- 30 Whitman Road: Septic application, proposed plan, and unsigned permit for a new Presby system.