



# Town of Boylston Board of Health [boh@boylston-ma.gov](mailto:boh@boylston-ma.gov)

221 Main Street, Boylston MA 01505 \*\* Telephone (508) 869-6828 \*\* Fax (508) 869-6210

## MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021

**Members Present via Remote:** Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault, John Wentzell (arrived at 6:21 p.m.)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Dennis Costello

**Recorder:** Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. Roll call was taken for members and staff attending remotely: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault, Dennis Costello, and Melanie Rich. John Wentzell arrived at 6:21 p.m.

An announcement was made that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, the Boylston Board of Health meeting will be conducted via remote participation.

### **RESIDENT BUSINESS**

Compass Pointe – A letter was sent to Mr. Haynes; he responded today with the FAST system inspections. He was told he needed to submit the inspection reports of the leaching fields, septic tanks, pump chambers and pumps, and manholes at the over 55 systems. He replied that he would have those inspections when the ground is free of snow. Mark Anttila (46B Compass Circle) asked for a copy of the letter when it is public record. He also commented that Boylston CP, LLC is now the owner of record for the dam.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Review and approve Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2021 – Tabled to March. March 22, 2021 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

### **AGENT'S REPORT**

COVID-19 Virus Update – A lot has happened since our last meeting. We discussed briefly not hiring a vaccine coordinator. Dennis looked into signing the MOU with the Urgent Care Facility (Dr. Bing). The state said they were not going to give vaccine to any place that could not hold stand up a clinic that does not have the capacity to administer 750 vaccinations/day 5

days/week for the remainder of the pandemic. Dr. Bing has put everything on hold because he is not sure where he stands.

Vaccine was pulled back from the hospitals and given to the large vaccination sites. He talked to UMass to see if they were going to continue to reach out to their patients; they did not know. Sarah was notified that no more vaccinations will be given out. Hospitals will use what they have.

There are several towns trying to join together in a different collaboration. Dennis was approached by a group in the Uxbridge area. Harrington Hospital is trying to keep their clinic up so they will continue to get vaccine. He talked to Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough today. There are an additional 5-7 towns trying to get together to see if we can get together to meet the number. Some of the groups that were getting vaccine were shut off; they are trying another approach; he is trying to group with them. If they can get the vaccine, it would take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough (no guarantees). If successful, we would have to support the clinic any way we can. He has a meeting with them tomorrow to let them know we want to go that route. Sarah thinks it would be nice if we could collaborate with those towns to meet the requirement. Shipments this week were delayed due to the storm and not receiving a lot from the government.

Jack commented that he made fifteen calls to residents today; only two people received vaccinations; the rest said they've spent hours and got nowhere. Dennis said of the calls he made, two were vaccinated; one will need assistance; the rest got nowhere; it is a hit or miss. Most understand it is a tough process. He did have to explain why Worcester, Shrewsbury and West Boylston were able to get vaccinated.

Rob commented that he took his dad to Gillette; it was a very smooth process; took less than 20 minutes. Dennis is still trying to get blocks of time with the state for our residents and not getting anywhere.

Sarah said the Board of Selectmen asked the board to put together an update as to where we were; she emailed the update to Allison Mack.

Dennis prepared a letter he would like to send to the residents. It is a broad explanation of what the board has done in the past and to let them know that the board has been doing something; we have had a plan for many years; in December everything was in place but the vaccine. Rob thought it was a great idea to be proactive to show we are doing our best effort. A number of those towns are regionalized and work together as towns, not just COVID. They belong to the City of Worcester. People don't realize that the City of Worcester owns their Health Department; those towns' services come from the City of Worcester. The board asked last year to get back into Region 2; that is becoming the missing piece of the puzzle. Sarah will ask the Board of Selectmen assistant for help with mailing the letter.

AT&T Telephone Transfer – Over the years, Region 2 has paid for the telephone service. Every month we have paid a \$5 late fee because it is not paid on time. The accountant said she will no

longer pay the overage fee and we should do something about it. Dennis will transfer the account and submit it to the town and/or figure out the cost and have the town pay a certain amount per month.

Office Coverage – The board can pay for office coverage any time it is needed. Dennis said it is getting to the point that if it is going to be part of the job to be checked on weekends, it should be compensated for. Sarah asked Melanie if she was interested; the answer was yes. There are funds available from the Region 2 Public Health Grant. Sarah asked if there is a minimum amount to get paid for; all agreed with four hours. She asked the board if they had any issues with monitoring; they did not. Sarah Scheinfein made a motion that the board pay for coverage for a minimum of four hours per weekend to cover the phone and office; Jack Wentzell seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

A letter was received from a resident in town that would like to be buried on their property. Dennis checked the Public Health Laws and Town Counsel; there are no zoning regulations in town against it. There are specifications under Public Health such as you cannot be buried near a wetland area, town wells, etc. The law says they need approval from the Board of Health with a public hearing. After that, should they be successful, it must go to town meeting to be ratified. It will have to be on the deed and be maintained in perpetuity. Sarah questioned if it has a nameplate, will relatives be bringing flowers and walking through the owner's land. Dennis said it is part business and part residential. He needs to look more at the laws and with Town Counsel to come up with an engineered plan as to why it is acceptable under the health regulations. If we want to approve it, we need to know exactly why, and if we disapprove it, need to know exactly why. There may also be setbacks to neighbors. It would have to be done under the regulations for crematories and/or farming laws. He has have never come across this before. It is a serious request, and a number of items need to be looked at. Dennis will reach out to Town Counsel and have him respond to their attorney. Rob suggested checking other towns to see if they had bylaws Dennis could review.

## **PLAN REVIEW**

283 Central Street (Powers) – Having no issues, Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the septic repair plan for 283 Central Street; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

9 Ledgewood Drive (Borsuk) – Having no issues, Jack Wentzell made a motion to approve the septic repair plan for 9 Ledgewood Drive; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to adjourn; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.