



Town of Boylston Board of Health boh@boylston-ma.gov
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MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2022

Members Present: Robert Thibeault, Sarah Scheinfein, John Wentzell

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello, See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

RESIDENT BUSINESS

Outback Engineering (Jeff Youngquist) and Shalin Liu – Mr. Youngquist was representing Ms. Liu who would like to be buried on her property. It is permitted by law, but zoning would have to be created. This is a new request for the board. Ms. Liu honestly believes we are all born naturally and one day when we say goodbye, it will be dust to dust. Dennis understands her thoughts, but said public health-wise, individual cemeteries from houses and churches were done away with and cemeteries were created to keep bodies and body fluids out of the groundwater table, streams, and other elements.

Mr. Youngquist said there is nothing to be harmed by putting a body in the ground, but Ms. Liu will have to be embalmed and put in a vault. Dennis said the board would need help in formulating a bylaw so the town is protected. The board questioned who was going to maintain the site and had questions on legal issues if she is allowed to be buried there. Jordana Schreiber (Day Pitney, LLP) said a Purpose Trust would be created when Ms. Liu passes. Dennis asked how an amount would be determined. Rob wanted to know what will happen with the property after her demise. Ms. Liu owns over 100 acres at Summer Star Wildlife. She said it will self-run until the Board of Directors determine it can no longer survive and passes it to a public non-profit. Rob said we would have a burial site in a private non-profit. There would be money going into a public trust to maintain a piece of private acreage on a public trust. Ms. Schreiber said 696 Linden Street will be contributed to the private operating foundation of Summer Star; the plot where the private burial is will be carved out and donated to the Purpose Trust as well as the road going in (easement). Ms. Schreiber said they don't want to set a precedent, but Rob said they are. Ms. Schreiber said the difference is that they can state in a regulation that it must be surrounded by land that is owned by a non-profit.

Sarah asked if the house would ever be sold and was told it would never be sold; it will be donated to the Wildlife Sanctuary after Ms. Liu's death. Dennis said even though it will be

private, it will be public. The pieces that need to come together are the legal description and what the board needs to do with the actual plot going forward. The board must (1) decide if they will allow it to happen, and (2) bring it to town meeting. Dennis asked if it will be a one-person only plot and was told yes it would. Rob knows it will be converted over to one large piece of property and said it's 16.7 and 30.2 feet to the property line. In theory, any property with 16.7 and 30.2 feet off the property line, could use the guide to put a burial site in their yard; he didn't feel comfortable with that. He said if it was approved before she passes away with this guide, you can be buried using this guide. Rob said if they are going to convert to over 40 acres in the back corner and give more acreage off that corner, he would feel more comfortable with an acre circle minimum all around. Dennis said there must be a regulation prior to the board approving it. Rob said we would have to look at it as someone who has a lot of acreage to accommodate it long-term. Dennis asked if we need a certain number of acreages, e.g., 20, etc.; the house would have to be part of the regulation. The board now has more information to work with; they do not want to set a precedent; members agree, but there is more work to do to get there. Mr. Youngquist will revise the plan.

GENERAL BUSINESS

John Wentzell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated January 24, 2022; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

March 28, 2022 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Compass Pointe Update – Dennis has been in contact with the FAST system people; they are going to do the carbon treatment on the large FAST system. They are working with the developer and Homeowners Association. According to Lauren at Wastewater Treatment Services, the Homeowners Association has approved them putting in that system. Dennis talked with Michael from Wastewater; they have been in contact with the state on this item. Peter Garry asked how that would affect selling a home. Mark Anttila asked about a non-compliance Title 5; Dennis said the Title 5 has passed; there is a clear Title 5 for that system. There are some things that are not in compliance with the plan, but that doesn't mean the entire system is not working or out of compliance.

AGENT'S REPORT

Mask Mandate – The board voted effective immediately to end the mask mandate. People should continue to follow CDC guidelines.

COVID-19 Virus Update – Part of the grant received was used for an epidemiologist who provides reports every other Friday. Since January 15th, the numbers have been going down. Boylston is where we were 14 months ago; very low. Everything is moving in the right direction. There will be an expected spike since school vacation has just ended. It will be reviewed at the state, local and board level.

Nurse – Sarah said the hours are partially dependent on what the board is allotted at town meeting. Hopefully the budgeted request will be approved. Dennis said we are in the same range as other public health nursing services. The board would be looking at \$45-\$60/hour. The job description will be sent to the Personnel Department.

Greater Boroughs Partner for Health Update – Sarah will email Joe Flannagan and ask him to attend the next meeting for an update.

PLAN REVIEW

Longley Hill (Ansari Builders) – Approved.

Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to adjourn; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.