



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

January 23, 2023

Members Present: Robert Thibeault, Sarah Barrette, John Wentzell

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello (Health Agent), Ann Marie Muckenstrom

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

John Wentzell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2022; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

February 27, 2023 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Waste Management Representative – Patrick Hopkins was present. Mr. Hopkins said they have struggled with help since last summer. They were down 8 and hired 6 more; 5 of those are in training; 1 is on the route. Since January they have brought drivers in from across the country to help out, but they don't know the routes so pick-up is not being done successfully; they are working to resolve the problem but more drivers are needed.

Rob said he see drivers early in the morning and understands he is trying to make great strides, but he doesn't see it. The trash barrel across the street from Town Hall wasn't picked up for six consecutive weeks even though numerous trucks pass by it every day. He said there is no excuse for not picking up trash when all the trucks are passing by them. He said he has contacted other towns that have contracts and they have no issues. He feels Boylston is not a priority and thinks the residents in town feel the same way; enough is enough. Rob asked him when he is going to do to catch up. Mr. Hopkins said probably not for the next eight weeks. Rob said there are trash barrels in town that haven't been picked up in the last two months and trash on the ground is a health concern. It has to be resolved faster than that.

Sarah asked what's being done for the residents whose trash has not been picked up and are looking for reimbursement. Mr. Hopkins said they are being reimbursed. She asked how easy is it for customers to contact Waste Management? Mr. Hopkin didn't know; they have a call center. Dennis asked when he could see substantial improvement. Mr. Hopkin said they could do Saturday pick-ups; he doesn't know how many customers there are. Rob felt they are no longer going to provide service to the town. Dennis asked again if he could recommend a time when we would see a substantial improvement. Mr. Hopkins said within the next three weeks, showing improvement each week. Dennis said the company needs to pick up the trash and not

just the next three weeks; it needs to continue. Jack asked if they had enough customers in town for it to be profitable for Waste Management; Mr. Hopkins said yes. Rob said we need improvement and a resolution at the February 27th meeting which Mr. Hopkins will attend. If the trash is not picked up by then he will recommend not giving them a permit and letting the residents know that Waste Management is no longer picking up in town. Rob Thibeault made a motion to revisit this topic at the next meeting to approve (or not approve) the license; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Waste & Recycling Committee Update – Sarah participated in a Board of Selectmen’s meeting because she felt three people on the Committee wasn’t enough; she wanted to expand it to five. The first meeting is February 6th. She reached out to two residents who expressed interest. Members will have to be sworn in and the Committee organized at the first meeting.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health Update – Sarah said Isabella is the Epidemiologist for the Greater Boroughs and now works 32 hour/week. She wants to meet with Health Agents for 30 mins to 1 hour in person or zoom to discuss the shared grant. She wants to update Greater Boroughs programs and project updates. She is trying to start Impact Melanoma which would be putting sunscreen dispensers in various parks around Boylston; the cost is approximately \$6,000 for eight sunscreen dispensers. Sarah reached out to Parks & Rec and will have a meeting with them on February 7th. There are six places they identified: Hillside, the Manor, Center Court, Football Field, Camp Harrington, and the Softball Fields at BES. She asked if they could help with costs and/or upkeep, installation, etc. Sarah is meeting Wednesday with Isabella via Zoom to obtain more information for when she meets with Parks & Rec.

Erin contacted Sarah and let her know that Ann Marie was denied access to MAVEN. The people who run MAVEN don’t want it in too many hands. When Ann Marie was hired, she was focused on the seniors. The COA needs help. Perhaps Ann Marie needs to concentrate on the children. Ann Marie said the elementary school nurse is leaving at the end of the month; there will be no staff nurse. Ann Marie will talk to the principal at the elementary school to see what she can do now.

Erin thought getting Ann Marie into MIIS, the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (where all the vaccines are recorded) would be a good help. Westborough is in the process of trying to get all the students vaccination records into one place; that’s what they need help with.

Additionally, Sarah will ask the Town Administrator if we can have a dedicated email address where people could be notified through an blast email. Sarah thought we could do a postal mailing. Dennis said there is a Constant Contact; it’s like CodeRed; people sign up for it. He said that’s probably more doable than sending out a mailing; he will look into it. He said it’s a shame that we don’t have a central registry of people in town.

Rob said because of the recent incident in the NFL, people have contacted him and asked if the board could apply for or consider getting AEDs for the athletic fields. Erin has reached out to Joe Flanagan to see if he would teach a class in administering CPR. Rob was asked to bring it

before the board to see if there was any way to fund the units. Dennis said it's more than just the units, they have to be housed, kept out of the weather, accessible, charged, maintained, etc. Rob will report that the board will look into it. Dennis said it could be deferred to the Boroughs for assistance.

Update on Grant – Sarah talked to Heather in Southborough. It's a Best Practice Program (a feasibility study). They want to hire someone to analyze local Boards of Health and how can we get more for our money.

AGENT'S REPORT

Mark Anttila attended the meeting looking for an update from Dennis. He was told that he was in contact and met with Jay Billings, Engineer for the Boylston Water Department, over the reports from the FAST system and will be meeting with him once again in the upcoming month to speak about additional topics.

Appoint Town Nurse to the Boroughs – Ann Marie will be able to attend the Boroughs next meeting which is March 8th. Sarah Barrette made a motion that Ann Marie Muckenstrum be the primary representative to speak on behalf of the Board of Health; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. Rob Thibeault made a motion that Sarah Barrette be the alternate; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Town Nurse Update – Ann Marie said there are 1,570 residents age 60 and above. National Glaucoma month is coming up and she reached out to the National Institute of Eyes and is having flyers sent to the office. She went to the Northborough Narcan training; it was an informational training. She talked with Erin about the schools about access to SNAP to see if there are any backlogs to help log in information now that she is leaving. She will contact the school tomorrow. With Kindergarten registration she can check to make sure they are vaccinated.

PLAN REVIEW

1 (or 5) Jacobson Drive (Lot 38) and 24 Barnard Hill Road (Lot 36) – New house. The board approved a septic system 9/27/2021. All the septic plans were done by Azimuth Design and Thompson-Liston Associates. All the septic systems have trenches. Title 5 says you should use trenches which are preferred. The applicant brought in a letter from James Tetreault stating that he has no objection to another party redesigning the septic system serving these lots if the lot owner so desires. The company's design is for a bed rather than trenches. Dennis talked to the engineer and told him that the plan that we already have is closer to Title 5. Both systems will work, both systems are designed by engineers, both systems are approvable. The board will have to look which one is closer to Title 5. John Wentzell made a motion to not approve the plan submitted and stay with the one that is closer to Title 5; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Lot 2 Mill Road (Variance Request) – The applicant is (1) looking for relief from the 25-foot setback local regulation; and (2) from the septic system no more than 100-feet from a house to the septic system. Discussion on this item was that they should go back to the engineer and to look at the Manifest in Justice Regulation and see if they can configure the system to accommodate our local regulations. John Wentzell made a motion to table the variance request pending further information; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

100 Shrewsbury Street (Trailside Apartments) – The plan is for the apartment building on the corner of Route 140 and Sewall Street; the system will be pressure dosed. Under the design calculations they designed a bed. Dennis had discussions with the engineer about using trenches where possible. There is also a conflict in Title 5 where systems cannot be any more than 100-foot length; this one is 180-feet. You could possibly have two separate areas separated by 10-feet, which this plan does not have. An email will be sent to David Boyer, DCR. With Mr. Boyer’s input on this item this plan can be approved.

Having no further business to discuss, John Wentzell made a motion to adjourn; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.