



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

August 21, 2023

Members Present: Robert Thibeault (Chair), Sarah Barrette, John Wentzell

Members Absent: None

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

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Sarah Barrette made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated June 26, 2023; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

September 25, 2023 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health/Town Nurse Updates – Ann Marie has done wellness visits in the community. She also updated the Fire Department with the two residents who have oxygen in their homes. She was looking into flu shots and said Erin is handling it. One hundred immigrants were brought into Northborough so the Boroughs' nurses have been busy. Ann Marie has replenished the Police Department, Fire Department, Council on Aging, and some resident businesses with new COVID kits; COVID is on the upswing and starting to spread. If the public has any symptoms, they need to test. Sarah said Gabriella Knox, the intern whose project is food insecurity this summer, was having trouble reaching the person who runs the food pantry in Boylston but eventually connected with the right person.

Impact Melanoma Update – The dispensers were received. Sarah will contact Parks and Rec and the Highway Department. They will put them up in the locations decided upon.

Collins Center Update – Rob had his interview with Morgan Clark. She is in the stage of interviewing key members of all associated towns. The idea is to see how the towns can work together, not regionalize, and use better resources in case of emergency. She asked and will be asking what we think we need to do for improvements for our town. It's a study; there is nothing to join at this point. Dennis said the study is spearheaded by the Town of Southborough. Many of the recommendations will be to Southborough, not necessarily to Boylston. Rob asked Morgan for her recommendations. She felt the board should ask for the resources needed to support the town.

Mill Road Site Visit – Members visited the site. Dennis asked if the board wanted a full plan. Rob said even if he gives the board a plan, he needs a variance because it's too close to the

powerlines. Dennis suggested the applicant petition the power company. The top of the system has to come out 15' and there's a 3:1 slope; that's the code for meeting the breakout. The code says you can mitigate it by putting in a vapor barrier, which is a solid barrier, or a wall and a barrier. He needs a wall because of the topography and the barrier would be inside the wall.

AGENT'S REPORT

Compass Pointe – Dennis has been in contact with Jay Billings and the people who run the FAST system. They looked at a lot of the old data and new data from the results of the water. At some point another monitoring well will be put close to the system because it was realized that the monitoring wells are not in the right locations because the entire subdivision was not looked at again. The study was done on approximately 60 single family homes with individual septic systems. Looking at the past data, Jay Billings asked what they are putting into the system. There may have to be a check to see who has garbage grinders (which have not been allowed in town since the 1980s). The reason we are not getting the nitrogen figures at the end is because they are ridiculously high going in. Dennis reviewed various regulations and said typical wastewater has a total nitrogen content of around 30-35 milligrams per liter. These are coming in at 71, 78, 83; something is going into that system. Another possibility could be that someone using a lot of bleach that's killing off the system. Mark Anttila thought putting in another testing well would fall under the Maintenance Trust. The community needs to be educated on the operation, what can and cannot go into the system, and a component on how to sell their house.

Animal Inspector (Potential Candidate) – Dennis spoke with a potential candidate. It is now called Animal Control. The candidate will be talking with Steve Golas (the former Animal Inspector). He is scheduled to take courses. Dennis is waiting to hear from him.

Burial Regulation – Dennis provided home burial information to the board. He used the state setbacks to wetlands, wells and drinking water. He hasn't heard from Town Counsel as to whether the board can require a minimum of 10 acres or if that would be creating a zoning regulation. We were looking at 10 acres and 50 feet of the property line (which was not included in the draft). The board can give permission, but it would still have to go to town meeting and/or the Board of Selectmen for approval. Do we want to do this as a regulation or a policy? It is harder to go against a regulation than a policy. We will need Town Counsel's opinion as to whether it should be a policy or a regulation. An application fee will need to be established. The board will require an engineered plan and review just as is done for a septic plan. Dennis will include the 50-foot setback and 10-acre minimum in the draft and forward it to Town Counsel.

The board discussed appointing Steve Sears as an alternate inspector when Dennis is not available. Steve is retired from David Ross Associates; he has been used in the past, and he was the alternate health inspector in the 1980's. Jack Wentzell made a motion to appoint Steve Sears as an alternate septic inspector in Dennis' absence; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

PLAN REVIEW

14 Ledgewood Drive (Pastyrnak) – No issues

219 Central Street (Knorr) – No issues

31 Cross Street (Craig Haynes/S2V, LLC) – Graves Engineering is reviewing this plan.

Sarah Barrette made a motion to approve the plans for 14 Ledgewood Drive and 219 Central Street; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.