



Town of Boylston Board of Health boh@boylston-ma.gov
221 Main Street, Boylston MA 01505 ** Telephone (508) 869-6828 ** Fax (508) 869-6210

MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2024

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello (Health Agent)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Robert Thibeault made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated November 27, 2023; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

February 26, 2024 at 9:45 a.m. was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health & Town Nurse Updates – Ann Marie submitted an updated report. She attended the GBPH quarterly meeting on December 13th. She has been placing COVID tests at the Town Hall, the Police Station, the Council on Aging, and dispensing in the community. She has been placing educational materials on the bulletin board at the Town House. She also wrote a health article for the COA that supports educational materials on mental and physical health and is working on another article for their newsletter. She is doing wellness/case management visits in town. The next GBPH meeting will be in March. Kristen Black has left for another job. Isabella Caruso is in the acting position currently.

Review FY25 Budget – The budget has been submitted. Sarah emailed the Finance Committee to request an in-person meeting but hasn't received a reply. Dennis had also requested it when he submitted the budget. The nurse is still budgeted at \$10K. In the email, Sarah explained to the Finance Committee why it needs to be adjusted. Eric Brose had told Sarah they had the extra funds. Sarah will email Howard Drobner.

Food Complaint – The Town Clerk said she continues to receive complaints from someone through Facebook and email about a resident preparing and selling food from her house; the resident posts on a regular basis but has no permit. The person complaining sells homemade crafts. Dennis said there are certain things you can cook in a home-based kitchen with a permit. Anything they do is in the safety of the preparation. The board does not issue a common victualer license; that comes from the Board of Selectmen. This board issues food permits. We can send a cease and desist her operation and contact Michael Seager to do an inspection, and since they have well water, it should be tested.

AGENT'S REPORT

Burial Regulation – The revised burial policy was received from Town Counsel. It is what is needed for a regular burial policy, not a green burial. Dennis recommended accepting it as a policy; we will create an application. When an application is approved by the board, it will go to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. John Wentzell made a motion to accept the document as a Board of Health policy, Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Waste & Recycling Committee Update (Permit Review) – Sarah commented that she responded and turned in the survey that went out with the census. Dennis said the Committee would like the board to review the rules and regulations and see if we would adopt a regulation for the removal of solid waste. Rob's biggest concern is enforcement of the policy because we don't have a full-time agent. Who would be the designee? Dennis thought maybe putting it on a town department that has full time staff. Rob asked if we would need another budget line item to pay for the person to do it; the answer was yes. He is for stricter polices for recycling and trash hauling, but will the town be put in their budget? Dennis said he would like to report back to the Committee that the Board of Health is seriously looking to approve regulations. We need discussions on where the money will come from, how we guarantee payment, pay as you throw, will they go with one hauler, etc. Hopefully, the board will implement something soon. The Committee reports back to the Board of Selectmen. If the program comes up and it's part of our policy, we recommend it to the Board of Selectmen.

PLAN REVIEW

8 Gulf Street and Lot 2 Sewall Street (Boylston CP, LLC) – Dennis abstained from the review. The first review has been received from Graves Engineering. The applicant needs to respond and submit a revised plan. Sarah Barrette made a motion to not sign the plan based on further recommendations; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

1 Paris Drive (Diamond Hill Ave Lot 1-Sauer) – Dennis recommended approval.

2 Paris Drive (Diamond Hill Ave Lot 2-Barter) – Dennis recommended approval.

Sarah Barrette made motion to accept 1 Paris Drive and 2 Paris Drive as presented; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Dennis updated the board with the water quality report for the large system at Compass Pointe; 2 out of 3 were not good; total nitrogen numbers are high. He sent them to the Water Dept and the engineering firm. At some point we need to get together with their Board of Directors. The Water Dept is possibly looking at putting in another monitoring well. The well report says there is a slight uptick near the well; nothing to be alarmed with at present. Dennis believes it's what's going into the system. The system cannot take an extreme number and dropped it down.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.