



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

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MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021

Members Present via Remote: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault

Members Absent: John Wentzell

Others Present: Dennis Costello, George Barrette

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Roll call was taken for members and staff attending remotely: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault, Dennis Costello and Melanie Rich.

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 – Dennis reviewed correspondence sent (January 28, 2020) and received (February 20, 2020) from Mr. Haynes as well as reviewed the plans; issues still remain. A report for the entire system to include the three separate systems at the over 55 development is needed as well as the updated Operation & Maintenance Plan. With regard to the septic covers, Dennis will go back to the installer of record (Steven Turnblom). Some ring and covers over manholes and tanks on the plan need to be brought into compliance; it is the responsibility of the installer. There is an open permit for the trench they were going to put on the FAST systems but did not. Dennis prepared a draft letter to be sent to Mr. Haynes to resolve the issues. He was also part of a meeting last week concerning well testing. The board will review the letter and a response will be requested by April 10th. Mr. Anttila commented that between 47 A&B there is a metal bar about 6"-8" above ground horizontal to the cover; looks like a safety hazard; he will send photos.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Rob Thibeault made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated December 21, 2020; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

February 22, 2021 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

FY22 Budget – The budget was submitted along with an explanation letter.

The Annual Report will be finalized and sent to the BOS Administrative Assistant.

AGENT'S REPORT

CARES Act – Dennis spoke with one selectman who assured him there is still Cares Act money in the town for whatever is needed, but not an unlimited amount. If the board needs additional nursing, there is funding available. He believes there will be another small funding amount coming in (possibly \$2,000); he will know more on Thursday. All of nursing bills have been submitted and paid.

COVID-19 Virus Update – Dennis commented that there is a lot of information out there; it is changing constantly; sometimes quickly without notice. As of January 19, 2021, our total case count with the state is 207 (from the beginning of the pandemic). The case count was lower this reporting period, but we are still in the red; another 13 cases were reported today.

He talked about a google form that was created by another Health Agent that would stay with the BOH. It would create an excel spreadsheet and contain names, addresses and where they fit on the state list. Ages 75 and older are now in Phase 2; the 65-age group and older is below that. The form would collect the info, but it would have to be monitored; it could be a worthwhile tool. Rob thought it was a great idea but would be a lot of manhours monitoring it. Sarah said the Selectmen have reached out to the Lions Club and they have committed to help. The COA would have all the names.

The board has not heard back from the state on standing up a clinic. There is an interactive map on mass.gov that lists the vaccination sites: UMass University Campus, UMass Memorial Campus, Central Mass Allergy & Asthma Care (unable to register for COVID; not sure why it is on the list), and Walgreens in Holden. There is also Harrington Hospital and possibly joining with Northborough. George Barrette said it was not feasible to transport seniors to Harrington Hospital since you would only be able to take two at a time. He said Boylston is part of Elder Services in Worcester and there are resources available for the seniors. We should coordinate with Laura Susanin (COA) to see what her plans are. He also suggested talking to different towns. Dennis said as of December, the state was not offering any local entities any vaccine. The state's rollout was to have the state vaccinate. At the end of December, some of the BOHs wanted to know why they were being excluded. The state said they were helping because the boards were busy with COVID and didn't have time. The larger Health Departments have medical staff so they could walk into the role.

Dennis has been asked by the Selectmen if Boylston could run their own clinic or partner with Worcester for over 75. Unfortunately, he has been out of the planning loop because he hasn't been active Region 2 for the past few years. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were put into another group which is why Harrington Hospital in Southbridge came along. It's a great model, but it's too far away. He has talked to Northborough as well as CVS. The state is not only using Walgreens and CVS, but also Stop & Shop. They are making it harder for smaller communities to put in an application and be approved. The state said they are receiving 86,000 doses/week for the entire state. They are trying to do the mass vaccination at the larger sites

such as Gillette and Fenway. Our first hurdle will be reapplying to see if we can get the vaccine. The state has also put in a Prep Mod computer-based system for sign-up. We would need two people at each clinic to use the application. They are running training classes every week. It is difficult to get the vaccine. Harrington Hospital he has had to work with them with this particular group. He talked to UMass Thursday; they are open to allowing the hospital to come to Boylston where we can send people to Lake Avenue. He has not heard back from them. The model would be for Boylston; they vaccinate all our residents and we provide what they need, e.g., park cars, register, etc. It's a lot cleaner and easier to do it that way. Dennis will contact them. He has talked with Southborough; they are doing something similar. He was given information for an Urgent Care facility. They are willing to go to Southborough and would be willing to come to Boylston to set up their clinics. Currently, the vaccine is not an open spigot; people are running clinics for 200/300 people and getting 100 vaccines; the vaccine is very tight right now.

We need to do what we can for the seniors. Mr. Barrette said we need to be ready to move because everything changes so rapidly. Dennis said we need to have the ok to do that which he does not have right now. It's tough on the smaller towns. Sarah said there is still an issue with a senior who has no one to take them there. Dennis said he doesn't want to put that on anyone but there may be ways to work around it. He talked to Stacy at CVS but she doesn't know her allotment. The vaccine is not available for everyone. On February 1st the list grows longer with a new phase, but there is not enough vaccine to do the current phase.

Dennis explained the logistics on how long it would take. The board wants to hold a clinic for the seniors and will continue down all the paths, but it is very difficult. We will put information as to what is available right now on our website. Unfortunately, the board can only offer the mass vaccination sites at this time and what is available on the mass.gov website.

PLAN REVIEW

Comment on 20-Unit 55+ Development at 8 Gulf Street – This is an over 55 subdivision plan. It is area of gravel; as far as sites for septic, it will be easy for them to find. They have not completed enough testing to design both the primary and a reserve area. Soil testing for 3-4 house lots was originally done. There is a monitoring well there. The Planning Board will be asked to explain to the board what the perimeters are; will it be quarterly, yearly, etc.? It is in the Aquifer as well.

Camp Harrington – Dennis was asked by one of the Selectmen if the board voted to not allow fields to be built on the Camp Harrington property. That was when the subdivision and ANR lots for Pine Street were being developed. When they came to the board originally, they had 40K square foot lots with six-bedroom septic systems. Because they were in Zone 2, they were told they needed to have 60K square feet in order to meet the requirements of Title 5. They were going to do a nitrogen aggregation plan, and they did come in with one. At the same time, the Planning Board was telling them that they had to take out more gravel so they could prepare to put fields in. According to the aggregation regulation, they can't use it for active recreation nor can you put nitrogen on the land that you are preserving. The end result was they deeded extra

land to each lot to comply with the regulation without doing the aggregation. The board did not vote to not to have fields being developed there. Rob said at that time he was not for that happening and left it at that. He said at that time when it was discussed (not the present), we were not able to allow that to happen. Dennis said there was no vote; they made their lots compliant with that particular part of the regulation. He said depending on your view, they could probably put a field there, but he would still not be in favor of it. It is another gravel area and is near water and you're putting a lot of nitrogen on it. Rob said at his soccer meeting if it were up to the board to make a decision and knowing the area and what is behind it, he (personally) would not be in favor of voting for it.

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