



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

May 24, 2021

Members Present via Remote: Sarah Scheinfein, John Wentzell, Robert Thibeault

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

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.

Roll call was taken for members and staff attending remotely: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault, John Wentzell, Dennis Costello, and Melanie Rich.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The board was reorganized with Rob Thibeault becoming the Chairman.

Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated April 26, 2021; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

June 28, 2021 was confirmed as the next meeting date. Jack Wentzell made a motion to meet in person; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

Beaver Activity (Stiles Road/Ethan Allen Drive) – Sarah and Dennis received an email forwarded from the Town Administrator from a resident on Ethan Allen Drive about beaver activity. Rob thought the MA Department of Wildlife would handle it. Dennis said the board is the issuing authority for trapping and can issue a 10-day emergency trapping permit, but only for eminent danger to residents, wells, septic, roadways, etc. When Dennis visited the site, the dam had been breached and the water was flowing onto the Stiles Road side. The homeowner has complained before. It appears the dam is on another piece of property, not Stiles Road. It is up to the homeowner to talk to the person to take care of it; he didn't think that has happened

yet. The water is 5-6 feet below the person's yard and is not encroaching on the septic system. Dennis talked to the Highway Department and look into more thoroughly when he has time.

Compass Pointe – Dennis commented that he did speak with Steve Turnblom who was the initial installer. He said he had been replaced with Mr. Haynes workers. He was reminded that he is the installer of record and is responsible for the entire system. Mr. Turnblom will look at it and get back to Dennis.

AGENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 Virus Update – Boylston is doing excellent; the last active case was on May 12th. Our town is in the highest percentage rate in every category for vaccinations.

Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Update – The last three weeks they have been able to get the Pfizer vaccine because the age group was lowered; they are using Moderna for ages 18, and Pfizer for ages 12 and up. The clinic should end June 25th. It's a lot of work, but for a good cause (1,500 vaccinations/week; very well received; very well run).

Dennis has been talking with the schools, the Lion's Club, library, and sports teams; Katie's Road Race is a live race; plans were submitted. The Lion's Club is having a chicken BBQ; it is after the protocols end; they will not need to provide us with a safety plan. The state of emergency will be lifted on June 15th; don't lose your best practices; use sanitizers, wash your hands and social distance. We don't want to go back to where we were. The board complimented Dennis for the great job he has done.

Nurse (BOH Budget) – Dennis thought we were getting \$16K for the nurse in our budget; we got \$10K. He wasn't sure what we could get for \$16K and doesn't know what we could get for \$10K. He does not want a repeat of the beginning of the vaccination phase of the pandemic; he couldn't get any vaccine. We would we have been in a better place if we had our own nurse. Jack said the town needs to rethink where they spend some of their money. Sarah said that's something we may want to bring up at town meeting. Dennis said it is not a lot of money and it is needed. Sarah has so many ideas to put in place, e.g., blood pressure clinics, diabetes clinics, flu clinics, provide EEE information, etc., but we don't have a nurse; she was very disappointed with that decision. Town meeting is June 7th. Sarah will put something together to send to the board to review; it is important to have a good nurse for the town. Rob thinks it's on everyone's mind; next year we won't have the foundation to make our case. Jack agreed that this is the ideal time. Jack Wentzell made motion for a proposal to ask for a reasonable amount of money we need to accommodate all the town's needs; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

Nurse (Shared) – The group is looking at a shared nurse for 1.5 for four towns. Those hours will be more of a collaborative than individual; they will advocate more for an all-encompassing. The clinic was done so well that we could possibly work with the four towns for flu clinics and then each town do a smaller one. The grant is \$300K/year for three years for four towns. As with grants, there is a possibility that after three years it will not be renewed. They may be

looking to contract VNA nursing but it would be a shared nurse, not our own. There will be more information as it progresses.

Information on Shared Services Update – Another part of the agreement is that they are hiring an inspector for food and housing; all four towns will receive inspectional software. The grant starts July 1, but we are not ready.

Health Agent's Contract – Dennis has the contracts of the Town Administrator, Fire Chief and Southborough Public Health Director. He will review them, contact the Chair, and hopefully have it for town meeting; the board agreed.

Mosquito Control will be in the community on the following dates: June 1, 7, 14, 21, 28. Residents are reminded that they must call every time they want their property sprayed.

PLAN REVIEW

Lot 3 Avery Way (Shrewsbury Homes) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for Lot 3 Avery Way; Jack Wentzell seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

5 Perry Road Lot 2 (National Homes Executive) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 5 Perry Road Lot 2; Jack Wentzell seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

160 Central Street (Felch) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 160 Central Street with variances, contingent upon approval of the Conservation Commission; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved. **Hold pending Conservation Commission approval.**

77 Perry Road Lot 22R (Barnard Hill Estates) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 77 Perry Road; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

61 Mill Road (Shrewsbury Homes) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 61 Mill Road; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to adjourn; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at -7:24 p.m.