



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

March 27, 2023

Members Present: Robert Thibeault, John Wentzell; Sarah Barrette (Chair) attended via phone.

Members Absent: None

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

Recorder: Melanie Rich

Rob Thibeault called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Sarah Barrette (Chair) called in due to medical reasons. Sarah Barrette made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated February 27, 2023; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

April 24, 2023 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health Update – Ann Marie said Isabella is keeping everyone informed about Impact Melanoma. They participated in a webinar a few weeks ago for racial equity which explained how racial equality is and came about. There will be additional Narcan training in Northborough, Westborough, and Southborough.

Impact Melanoma – Sarah met with Parks and Rec and reached out to the Highway Department; they're willing to put up and take down the dispensers, but not refill them; Sarah will check with Parks and Rec to see if they will refill them. Trisha May brought it before the Grange and the Lions Club; they have to vote on it. We are asking for \$250 per sponsor. The board agreed that they could contribute the remaining \$187 per dispenser. The dispensers are covered for two years and two acts of vandalism. At the end of two years the town would be responsible for the refills only. Sarah will reach out to Crest Technology, Phillips Precision, Clinton Savings Bank and Berlin Insurance for contributions. Parks and Rec will reach out to Boylston Youth Soccer and Baseball. Rob will contact Boylston Soccer. Sarah has done some research to cut costs, but it comes down to sponsorship. The three locations would be Hillside, the Manor, and the Center Courts; they will not need poles; they could be mounted. Ann Marie volunteered to attend the Memorial Day event; she will have sunscreen, samples, pamphlets, and literature to give out from Impact Melanoma.

Update on Grant – No update.

AGENT'S REPORT

Dennis told Mark Anttila that he spoke with Lauren from Wastewater; the reports were sent to the Water Department Engineer. Lauren has talked with residents at Compass Pointe; the nitrate numbers are down but the combined numbers are fluctuating. She thinks the last piece of the puzzle is the stack. She is going to contact them to remove it. Dennis will have another meeting with Jay Billings and has talked to Scott McCubrey at the Water Department.

Town Nurse Update – Ann Marie said Lisa Lamoreaux is the new nurse leader for the Berlin/Boylston schools. Sarah reached out to Erin so Ann Marie could assist with the school paperwork, but they use SNAP software. Ann Marie can still help out with filing, etc. Sarah reached out to the SNAP people to find out the cost for one year. Ann Marie didn't think it would be cost effective. Sarah noted and thanked Ann Marie for the work she does behind the scenes.

Animal Inspector – Dennis said our long-term Animal Inspector has recently moved out of town, leaving the town without one. Our role is to find and nominate an Animal Inspector; we don't do the Dog Officer part. Dennis has been contacting other towns for possibilities with no luck. The Animal Inspector does barn book inspections. An Animal Control Officer deals with problem animals; the Dog Officer currently comes out of the Board of Selectmen budget. In the past we had the same person do the Animal Inspector and Dog Officer; previous to that the Police Department was the Dog Officer. Dennis will continue to look to different towns for prospects; an advertisement will be put out if necessary.

Burial Information – Dennis gave the board some burial information to review that he received from the attorney. This is the second part; the board has already looked at setbacks, etc. The board will look at creating a usable regulation. Dennis has an issue with density numbers. Rob asked if there is anything stopping someone from using their property if they meet the perimeters for letting someone who is not a resident of the property to be buried there. Dennis believes there was. Rob asked if the person has the acreage to have a "green burial site", can others be buried there as well. Dennis said "family" would have to be defined. Rob had an issue with "residing" and would like to have specified an x number of years as a requirement for residing. Dennis talked with Steve Mero (Cemetery Superintendent). As of today, the Boylston cemetery does not have a provision for green burials. Dennis will be talking with the attorney to put it all together for board review. Once approved, denied, etc., they would have to apply everything they've done to this.

With regard to the site plan review process, reviews copies of applications within 10 days, Rob does not want 10 days; more time is needed to process, especially with the Board of Health being part-time. Rob was also uncomfortable with "reasonable accommodation for someone who dies of a pathogen". Dennis responded that he would bring that up to the attorney for clarification. Rob said the board is going to have to do each application on a case-by-case basis, we have to make sure the person doesn't have a pathogen. Dennis thought it was in the best interest of the board to ask through the attorneys that they provide an expert to come to a meeting to answer our questions. Rob Thibeault made a motion that an expert be brought in,

provided by Shalin Lin’s attorneys, to answer our questions on the subject; Jack Wentzell seconded; all approved. Dennis will follow up with the attorney with the board’s concerns that 10 days is not enough time for review; confirm that within 45 days from receipt of the application to make a recommendation is a state regulation; and what constitutes cause of death. The board wants to keep it safe while keeping it simple.

Beaver Complaint – Dennis will be attending an on-site meeting tomorrow at 25 Ethan Allen Drive. It’s an age-old beaver problem that ends up on Stiles Road. Dennis has been there numerous times; every time he has not seen or found any evidence that the beavers are destroying or causing a threat to public health or safety. Sarah has never seen any problem either. The Town Administrator set up a meeting with the BOS, Mass Wildlife, Conservation, Board of Health, and the Highway Department. It’s an expense for the person whose property the dam is on. The person complaining has been told several times that it’s not impacting his systems or the town’s wells.

Sarah left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

PLAN REVIEW

11 Columbus Road (Palmer) – John Wentzell made a motion to approve the plan; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Lot 2 Mill Road (Variance Request) – No information

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 7:04 p.m.