



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

May 22, 2023

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

Members Absent: None

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

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Reorganization of the Board – John Wentzell made a motion for Rob Thibeault to be Chairman; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved; Sarah will be Vice Chair.

Sarah Barrette made a motion to approve the April 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes as amended; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Waste & Recycling Committee Update (George Barrette) – Mr. Barrette is the Chair of the Committee. They've met several times and he is asking the board tonight for input/direction as to what the board is looking for. They have been researching similar size towns for their arrangement for trash and recycling and have been talking with the Town of Sterling. The Committee has also spoken with Irene Condon (Mass Municipal Assistance Coordinator for DEP); she will be attending one of their meetings. He asked the board what they expect from the Committee when the work is complete; what is the timeline; what are the goals.

Jack asked why we don't look at transfer stations. Dennis said it would be a challenge and explained that the front part of the landfill was going to be used as a transfer station; the board had \$175K and asked for an additional \$10K to build it, but town meeting voted for curb side pick-up and voted down the transfer station.

Mr. Barrette said they talked about adding the trash pick-up to the tax base. He said they are talking about proposing to the town one carrier but can we have only one carrier legally. Private carriers would still be able to come to town. Mr. Barrette said approximately 1,500 households use private carriers; some HOAs have their own pick-up as well as the apartment buildings. He would like to hear any ideas; they would like to come back sooner rather than later with options. Dennis said it won't happen for a few years and feels if it goes for a town-wide vote to support it with taxes, it will be an uphill battle. Dennis said Irene Condon is basically recycling. He said part of the town's view should be the use of the recycling that we have, Wachusett Recycling; very few use it. There is also recycling at Hillside for cardboard only. Rob thinks there

should be some type of announcement of what resources there are available for use by the residents.

June 26, 2023 was confirmed as the next meeting date; Jack will call in.

Dennis told Mark Anttila that he talked with Jay Billings; neither of them has the last report for the system at Compass Pointe. He said they will do a community-wide night in the fall with Jay Billings, Dennis, Scott (Water Department), and an engineer, for the entire area and anyone in Zone 2. The monitoring wells will be tested in June.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health Update – Ann Marie said she and Sarah attended a meeting last week. She contacted NACCHO and ordered 1,000 COVID tests. She is also preparing for the Memorial Day holiday and will have a table set up for hand-outs including sunscreen samples; chapstick, and information on tick-borne diseases.

Sarah sent Dennis an email about the noise meter; the cost is not known. Dennis said the town had one from the state that was used for the study at the library; it was used once. He didn't think it was a tool that the town would need very often.

Sarah said the Public Health Excellence Grant has retraining built into it. They talked about digitalizing and whether they want a third party to do it; the BOH does have a scanner for large plans. Kristin Black will ask about a back-up inspector for Dennis' vacations so there will be coverage. Scott Moles from Holliston does the septic for Northborough. Dennis said we do have coverage, so at the present time we don't need assistance. Taylor and Erin will be trained to be CPR instructors and want to host CPR classes for the region, they specifically want coaches to be trained, e.g., baseball, soccer, etc. Rob said he can provide the soccer board with when they will be available and will suggest it would be in their best interest to take it. It's an hour online and one hour in person; multiple dates will be available for in-person training. Narcan training continues; Sarah will email with upcoming dates. Sarah received an email from Isabella about tick borne diseases; the majority of diseases occur between June-August.

Impact Melanoma Update – The Grange and Lion's Club each gave a \$250 donation; we are able to buy one dispenser; Sarah said it would be more useful at Hillside. Each dispenser and sunscreen cost approximately \$685.86. Jack will put in \$250; Sarah will follow-up with more information. The board can afford to purchase a second dispenser; Rob would like one from the BOH. He would like to see one at Hillside, Center Courts, and the Manor.

Regionalization of Board of Health – Sarah attended the Collins Center Zoom meeting. It is a town/Town Administrator grant to look into regionalization. April was supposed to be on the call but was unable to; they asked who the point person would be and Sarah said April. The board received an email requesting a list of documents. Rob asked who would determine the board to be regionalized; Dennis said it is the board's decision. Sarah said you can't compare Boylston to Westborough and their needs; we have different needs. Dennis said they are looking at three towns. Southborough initiated the grant. They are trying to see if Southborough wants to regionalize and who they want to regionalize with. Westborough is part

of the Boroughs but hasn't used them much since they only have nursing needs; they are not part of this regional study. He felt regionalization only works when it's paid from the top and has seen over the years that it doesn't work. Jack asked what the pros are for being in it and was told there would be more staff; the cons are less flexibility and you lose autonomy. Sarah said that we don't have to do anything; they are only looking at it; it's a feasibility study. Jack Wentzell made a motion that the board not take part in the study; Rob Thibeault seconded; voted 2-1-0; motion passes. Jack felt we would lose our flexibility. Rob wants to keep this board a voting board.

AGENT'S REPORT

Town Nurse Update – Discussed earlier.

Animal Inspector – Dennis said that April would be advertising the position for a dog officer.

Burial Information – Dennis will send the information to Town Counsel for review.

Emergency Beaver Permits – This request is for the Haven Country Club. Dennis spoke with the superintendent and was told the beavers had a dam and it was backing up into hole 13. He was sent more information that the beavers have dammed it up completely, making it a mosquito breeding ground and damaging the trees; they could fall. Only the BOH can issue a permit. In looking at the regulations in depth, there is a section that talks about loss of income or business. Dennis doesn't see that there is an imminent public health threat, but there is an imminent threat of property damage and income loss. Rob and Dennis will visit the site tomorrow. Jack Wentzell made a motion that if it's found to be an imminent threat, loss of revenue, or potential injury, we issue a permit to terminate the beavers; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

EDS Site Update – Dennis said the EDS plans are being updated. He would like to remove the high school as one of the sites. The town hall is an easier facility and location to manage traffic, both inside and outside. Sarah Barrette made a motion to remove the Tahanto School as an EDS site and make the town hall the main EDS site; Jack Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Board Comments regarding 22 Diamond Hill Ave application to the Planning Board – Dennis said soil testing was done throughout the property and at the original house site. It will be a two-lot subdivision. Jack Wentzell made a motion that after looking at 22 Diamond Hill Ave, inform the Planning Board that the Board of Health approves the process to construct two houses on it; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

PLAN REVIEW

Lot 2 Mill Road (Variance Request) – No information was received.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.