

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Minutes for Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 7:00 PM**  
**Remote Participation**

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- 7:00 Minutes 12/15/21,
- 7:15 COVID-19
- Community Status
  - Mask Mandate
  - ARPA Funding
  - Remote meetings
  - General Updates
- 7:45 Benfield Farms Septic Upgrade
- FAST Permit Conditions – final draft

**DISSCUSSION ITEMS**

- FY23 Budget Preparation
- PFA’s status report
- Fern’s Country Store – Well update

**NEW BUSINESS**

*The meeting agenda lists all topics reasonably anticipated by the Board of Health at the time of posting. Additional topics not anticipated may be discussed at the meeting under the agenda item New Business.*

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Attendance members: Tony Mariano Chairman, Jean J Barry, Patrick Collins, David Erickson, Catherine Galligan  
Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Wanda Avril, Rob Frado, Phil Giffie, Alan Lewis, Ginny Turner

**1. Minutes**

Mariano said he would prefer to see less detail of the discussions in the minutes. Galligan moved to approve the minutes of 12/15/21 as amended, it was seconded and approved unanimously.

**2. Covid-19**

Last Thursday we had a fifth clinic with Concord, vaccinating 415 people, mainly adults (largely college students). We have had a dramatic surge in cases, 123 in December and 142 from Jan 1-Jan 10, 2022. The Fire Department is managing. The school is doing a tremendous job in keeping up with their cases, although there is talk of not following up on contact tracing but only calling people with positive results. People should isolate for 5 days, onset of symptoms or date of test is day 0 and then mask until day 10, most people are not having serious symptoms. Fantasia thinks about we have about an 85% vaccination rate, it is very high, and we have done a lot of kids--parents are getting kids vaccinated but despite this we have the highest case rate ever.

After a discussion of case rates, mask effectiveness, and air purifiers Galligan moved to continue the mask mandate to be reviewed at the end of February. Barry seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**3. ARPA Funding**

Lewis and others are trying to get ARPA funding for air filtration systems which will be sponsored by the BOH. We have been in touch with the ARPA committee. Alan Lewis said there are three different technologies being considered. One is an encapsulated UV system integrated into the air handling system and where facilities is talking about revamping the air handling that may be the way to go. The second system is a ceiling installed titanium dioxide system with a fan bringing air through the titanium dioxide. We do have a quote, but Lewis is not happy with the data on effectiveness, the data are not scientifically robust and are poorly documented. The

third system uses short wavelength UV which is harmless to humans but would require about 120 fixtures in the ceiling of the Town Hall which could be prohibitively expensive. Finally, a fourth system is a small portable Aledra system using titanium dioxide irradiated with LEDs--it can handle offices of up to 100 sq. feet and could be very cost effective. Titanium dioxide kills bacteria and neutralizes the virus--it's a very effective system and it also works on mold--titanium dioxide has been used for a long time with exposure to short or long wave radiation. Galligan expressed concern about possibly harmful byproducts. Lewis said ozone is one concern, but this system does not produce ozone or VOCs.

#### **4. Remote Meetings**

Fantasia said that the Select Board asked whether we would recommend remote meetings. After some discussion we decided that we do recommend remote meetings at this time and Mariano asked Fantasia to relay that we currently recommend virtual meetings during this period of the Omicron variant, but we will reconsider next month.

#### **5. Benfield Farms Septic Upgrade**

Fantasia, Galligan, Frado, and Mariano met in person with Carlos Quintal (the engineer overseeing the system startup and stabilization). Frado reported that at that meeting, Carlos clarified the operational chart and responsibilities and reiterated that he is taking the lead in ensuring that things are being properly managed and monitored. The automatic pH monitoring system was scheduled for installation by Jan 3, but Frado doesn't think that has happened and the system can't start up with pH monitoring. There is also concern about maintaining continuity if NOAH's employees or contractors get sick or quit. Title 5 also requires pressure testing the force main so Beaudry will need to coordinate that with the board.

Galligan raised a concern that historically, BOH has not received sample test results that indicate system performance in a timely manner. BOH should have test results for a specific month within 2 weeks of the month end. Carlos anticipates that, per his timeline, by the end of May he should have a handle on whether the FAST 0.9 system needs to be installed for nitrogen reduction. Galligan wanted to ensure that Frado would be part of the field work startup and we also want it to be very clear what happens when system goes out of control--there should be a trouble shooting guide. Carlos said testing of the monitoring wells would be quarterly or monthly but monthly for the start up. Mariano said the work group feels comfortable that we are on the same page with Carlos and that we should approve the startup and give them a go ahead with the caveat that Fantasia and Frado must approve it before actual discharge. Galligan expressed confidence in Carlos and moved that we authorize the startup of the Benfield Farms system contingent on a letter to be sent to NOAH, Barry seconded the motion. Frado said to be sure to include pressure testing, and Galligan noted the need for an electrical permit, and these should be in the letter. Mariano said Fantasia can put that together. It passed unanimously with Collins recusing himself.

#### **6. FY23 budget**

The Select Board felt we acted out of turn by changing counter drop-in hours without Select Board approval, but Mariano disagreed, and the Town Council supported Mariano's views. David Model has acknowledged to Mariano that if the Health Department is to stay with full service, more hours are needed. The Select Board will put us on a future agenda to discuss workflow and budget needs. We are asking for an additional 6 hours of Gines' time but even that may not be enough to go back to full time as drop-in hours are very inefficient. Hopefully, this can lead to better communications between the Select Board and the BOH.

#### **7. PFA's status**

Mariano reported not much has changed; we are waiting on the state for the treatment of wells. Fantasia said we continue to get additional household tests. Fantasia will get an update from the state before our next meeting to get the State's opinion of where Carlisle stands, the town of Princeton is having similar issues. A brief update on PFAs should be on future meeting agendas.

#### **8. Fern's Country Store - Well update**

The boiled water order was rescinded by DEP because there were multiple tests with no E. coli. Ferns still plan to relocate the well, but we don't know the status. Mariano is concerned that in our discussion with the state they mentioned that E. coli is usually an indicator of a problem but not the sole problem. For example, a breach in the

well casing could admit other contaminants. Ferns is looking into filtration systems with SWSS and Linda with check in with SWSS. The DEP is keeping a close eye on this situation.

**9. New business**

Fantasia said we need to make a comment on rapid at-home tests and coordinate with the Fire Department if it is appropriate to make rapid tests available. It's a matter of who will place the order and who is going to get the tests. Fantasia said a lot of people tested positive with at home tests and then went in for a PCR test, which is unnecessary.

**10. Update on Public Health Grant**

Sudbury has 5 positions that they would like to bring on, they will be a meeting tomorrow at 8:30 and hopefully they will be approved tomorrow

**11. Adjourn**

Next meetings are set for 01/24/21

Barry moved to adjourn, Galligan seconded, meeting adjourned at 21:09

Respectfully submitted,

David Erickson,  
Recorder