

BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes for Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 7:00 PM
Remote Participation

- 7:00 Community Input
- 7:05 Minutes of 1/24/23 and 2/8/23
Administrative Report
- 7:15 Earth Day Planning – Christina Christodoulopoulos
- 7:30 Recreation Commission – Dog Park (Holly Mansfield)
- 7:45 998 Bedford Road – Accessory Apartment Final Plan (Dale Joachim)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Private Hauler Regulations
- Accessory Apartment Work Group -report
- Benfield Farms - 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.

Meeting Dates - 3/08/23

Attendance members: Tony Mariano Chairman, Jean Barry, David Erickson, Cathy Galligan

Absent member: Patrick Collins

Attendance nonmembers: Linda Fantasia Health Agent, Tom Bilotta, Christina Christodoulopoulos, David Fisher, Dale Joachim, Holly Mansfield

1. Community Input

Tony Mariano called the meeting to order at 7:02PM and asked for community input, of which there was none.

2. Minutes of 1/24/23 and 2/8/23

Galligan moved to approve the minutes of 1/24/23 as amended. Erickson seconded the motion which was approved 3-0 with Barry abstaining.

Galligan moved to approve the minutes of 2/8/23 as amended. Barry seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

3. Earth Day Planning

Christina Christodoulopoulos reviewed the history of the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) which was created by the Select Board in August of 2022. Much of the ESC mission is community outreach and communication about anything and everything to do with sustainability: habitat, climate change, reducing carbon footprints, etc. In that vein they are planning a "Sustainability Day" on Earth Day, April 22 from 10am-2pm, including at the town

common, the solar canopy, fire station, library and center park. They are planning a route for people to walk to connect these locations. The ESC is reaching out to most town boards and departments to showcase sustainability efforts and they are inviting the Board of Health to participate. Mariano replied that we would be pleased to participate; PFAS is a major topic at the moment. The ESC is trying to make it as paperless as possible so instead of handouts and pamphlets they would prefer that the tables have QR codes that people could photograph to link to various resources. Mariano would like to hear from board members, his own thought is that one of our biggest concerns is the protection of our groundwater resources, not just from contaminants like PFAS but it also involves issues of septic design and groundwater flow, how it is filtered as it passes through the soil. Last summer, during the statewide drought we provided information to encourage people to manage their water use. Providing such information in conjunction with this event is something for us to consider. Galligan suggested that this might be a good opportunity to invite the Great Meadows epidemiologist to come to our table. Galligan is concerned about the impact this could have on the Board of Health staff and she does not want the burden of preparation or staffing the event to fall on Linda Fantasia or Kris Gines.

Fantasia said that we could submit a project to the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative. Erickson suggested that we could create some material and link to it from our web site. Mariano said we will consider that and that we will plan to participate.

4. Recreation Commission and the Dog Park

Fantasia introduced Holly Mansfield, the Director of Recreation, and David Fisher, who is consulting on the dog park. The Recreation Commission received a grant from the Stanton Foundation to build a Dog Park at Banta Davis. Town meeting approved an additional \$30,000 of CPA funds. The plan calls for tapping the irrigation well that is already there to provide water for dogs, but not for human consumption. David Fisher is a landscape architect who has been working with the Recreation Commission and Holly Mansfield for over a year. The Recreation Commission also coordinated with other groups in town. Fisher showed a general overview of the Banta Davis land, noting the proposed location of the dog park. Currently, the irrigation well pumps to a retention basin and they plan on running a 1" poly line from the well to the dog parks (large dog and small dog parks) with a button for filling the watering dish. They would plan on adding 1 handicapped parking space and the path from the parking lot is under a 5% grade so no hand rail is required. They plan on a 6' high fence with 1' underground to prevent digging under the fence. Big dogs will go to the right and small dogs go to the left. They will add a 92 gallon pressure tank with a 1" poly pipe to the well. There will be a backflow protector with a valve and other controls located in a shed. Fire and Police access will be modified and they have also accommodated the cross county trail which comes down through the woodlands. There will be crushed stone walkways in both the large and small dog parks as well as a fence separating the large dogs from the small dogs, they will also install erosion control to protect the isolated wetlands. They are also currently working out the rules and regulations which currently state Carlisle Residents only, no commercial dog walkers, no female dogs in heat, no puppies under 4 months and no human consumption of the water.

Fantasia has given them a copy of the form for modification to existing wells that they need to submit. Mariano asked how they would prevent freezing and Fisher said that the water system will be shut down in the winter (November through March) and it will be drained and any

water blown out. They will test the water and provide the BOH with the results. The DPW said will plow the parking area and the walkway.

Mariano suggested a sign covering public health issues that says "per order of the BOH" that specifies that dogs must be properly vaccinated, cleaned up after, and that the water is a "dog fountain" and not for human consumption.

Barry asked whether they are concerned about liability as a result of providing water. Mansfield said that part of the grant requires us to provide water. Fantasia said that a contact at the DEP said the question has never been asked- but it would probably be good to do a coliform test once a year. Barry asked whether other towns limit use to residents only. Fisher thinks it is better to be more restrictive and possibly relax regulations later rather than the other way around. Mariano asked Fantasia to continue to work with Mansfield and Fisher designate what goes on the "per order of BOH" sign. Mariano wished them good luck and inquired about the time frame. Fisher said it is a public project so they must advertise it and go through various waiting periods, they hope they can started this summer. Fantasia said that they are in site plan review now and may need a more formal response for the Planning Board in the future.

5. 998 Bedford Road - Accessory Apartment Final Plan (Dale Joachim)

Dale Joachim has returned and delivered his clarified plan; the last plan was conceptual. This is the final plan, Dale removed extraneous details and the Planning Board will review it, Fantasia does not think the Planning Board will consider the changes to be significant so the special permit (which has been extended) should still be applicable. Mariano asked Dale about a yard detail that appeared to be a stage with seating. Dale said that they have no plans to do anything there--the architect just added it as an embellishment. Galligan asked about the time frame and Dale replied as soon as possible, he has filed for permit in October and as soon as they are approved they will start the project. Galligan asked whether we needed to vote and Fantasia said they already have a conditional approval so it does not require a new vote although they will need to return if there are any additional changes.

Mariano has been looking at the list of accessory apartment permits and we need to ensure that any permits meet our requirements for protecting water and septic.

Fantasia will send a letter of approval and advise the planning board.

Galligan would like to specify a time limit for permits in the future. In particular, MA DEP conditions and approvals for innovative alternative (I/A) septic systems get updated periodically. If a construction project is delayed, there may be a different generation of I/A technology and/or approval conditions at the DEP level. In that case, the conditions BOH approved may no longer reflect current DEP requirements at the time of installation.

6. Private Hauler Regulations

Fantasia noted that at the last meeting it appeared that board members were rethinking whether we want to create regulations. Mariano and Fantasia discussed licensing the private haulers we have now without issuing a new regulation, much as we do with food service where we issue a license to operate and septic system construction using the Board's statutory authorization. where we refer back to state regulations. Fantasia did hear that enforcing local hauler regulations is very difficult, the remedy would be that if someone does not comply with state regulations then we would revoke their license, although Fantasia has not run this by town council. Bilotta has checked with town council who was pretty clear that if you have a regulation, you cannot limit it to a few people unless there is a law to that effect, there is no concept of grandfathering a few suppliers, although you can revoke someone's license for not

complying with regulations (state or local). Fantasia suggested that transfer station stickers are regulated by the Select Board so possibly the BOH could step aside.

Bilotta said that private haulers have a long history and that Gary Davis was a private hauler. Bilotta did have a conversation with private haulers and they believe that they can meet state requirements.

Galligan said that if someone is not compliant that there has to be a person documenting it and an authority to enforce compliance. We would be asking for a culture change. With food service we send an inspector. Bilotta says it would be monitored by people at the transfer station.

Mariano asked why are we involved at all, monitoring would be a DPW responsible and while state law gives the BOH oversight we could delegate that oversight.

Fantasia asked Bilotta to approach the town council about getting the BOH out of this, in any case, she doesn't think there is a need for a local regulation for private haulers. A policy should be sufficient. Fantasia will also check with the town council.

7. Accessory Apartment Work Group Report

The work group has not yet met.

8. Benfield Farms Update

Fantasia has had trouble contacting Quintal. The BOH needs a summary of what needs to be done in testing and maintenance of the new reworked fast system and we have not received anything. Fantasia has sent several notes but nobody is monitoring the system at this point, she will follow up on this.

Fantasia said that we should send something to NOAH reminding them that they are in violation unless they have an operator under contract, and the contract needs to include Quintal's recommendations. Mariano and other board members were impressed with Kim Packard from SWSS so they might consider SWSS. Fantasia thought that if they do go with SWSS they might have Packard talk to Carlos. Galligan pointed out that Benfield is different than Garrison Place because Benfield is nitrogen reducing whereas Garrison is not.

9. Administrative Reports

See Below.

10. Adjourn

Galligan moved to adjourn, Barry seconded, approved unanimously and we adjourned at 21:04, next meeting 3/8/23.

Respectfully submitted,
David Erickson,
Recorder

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
February 22, 2023

Town Caucus March 7, 2023 – One 3-year term (Jean Barry)

Annual Report – due 3/10/23. Kris is pulling data together for the charts. Need a theme for 2022.

STB ARPA funding for \$2800 was approved by the Select Board on 2/13/23.

COVID PH emergency ends 5/11/23. Insurance should cover vaccinations. Telehealth covered. Dispensing uncertain. Insurers can charge for testing. Free federal tests based on available supply.

GMPHC – Substance Abuse Prevention with “In Plain Sight” display and possibly a speaker

Gun Safe Bedford and MHFA Youth workshops available. See flyer

Ongoing Projects

PFAS Resources

Bi-annual well testing

Sanitary Sewer Overflows procedures