

**BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021
7:00 PM**

Remote Participation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83279854137>

Meeting ID: 83279854137

- 7:00 Minutes 10/10/19, 2/16/21
7:30 Benfield Farms – status report from Meridian Engineering

Discussion Items

27 Old East Street – Accessory Apartment Appeal
Open Space & Recreation Draft – comments
COVID-19 report
FY22 Budget
Personnel Request
2020 Community Chest Grant Status Report

Attendance members: Tony Mariano Chairman, Jean J Barry, Catherine Galligan, Donna Margolies, Todd Thorsen

Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Kris Gines, Mark Beaudry (Meridian), Elizabeth Daghish, Maureen Deery (Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust), Dave Erickson, Phil Giffie (Benfield Farms), Mal Nelson (Benfield Farms), Lee Storrs, Bill Risso, Ginny Turner, 617-697-5600

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 pm.

1. **Minutes**—the Minutes from 10/10/19 and 2/16/21 were approved with minor changes.

2. **COVID Update**

Trisha McGean was able to vaccinate 11 home bound residents with no adverse reactions. We owe a debt of gratitude to Concord for sharing vaccine with us.

A collaborative consisting of 8 towns, including Carlisle, is proposing a regional clinic to the state. The clinic would address a gap in the state’s planned mass vaccination site locations. Two sites are being proposed: the former K-Mart in Acton and drive-up structures in the Concord Carlisle High School parking lot. The CCHS structures were used for the First Responder Clinics. There will be a meeting on Thursday to come up with a plan to be submitted. Since there are 8 towns involved there will need to be a traffic plan and also a plan for staffing. Staffing will include paid municipal staff and volunteers. A full day clinic requires 10-15 medical personnel and up to 15 non-medical. We would like the clinic to have evening hours as well as since many of the medical volunteers work during the day.

To be considered a clinic must be able to administer 750 to 1000 doses per day for a minimum of 5 days per week. Mariano noted that if this gets approved we will be talking about 1000s of doses/week. He asked about the doling it out to multiple locations so that possibly Bedford and Carlisle could have a clinic in Carlisle. Fantasia said the towns do not want to complicate anything at this point and noted that the State has made it very clear that they want a single mass vaccination site and not local community clinics. It was noted that Carlisle purchased the drive-thru structures largely at the State’s request and we need to use the structure so we can get reimbursed. Fantasia thinks our drive through system is very efficient and it might be possible to set it up at the regional clinic. Galligan suggested it could also be used as a drive-thru clinic at the regional site; making use of it in some capacity will provide a better chance of getting reimbursement. Fantasia will post a vaccine advisory meeting on Monday.

Fantasia said that another swap meet is being planned and there was some discussion of traffic management, although it was felt that the last swap meet was well handled. The committee has improved many of the features based on their experience with the previous ones.

The COVID tally is up to 164 cases--they are largely family clusters but nothing like we were dealing with in November, December and January. The school has been responding quickly to reports of infection and is doing routine pool testing. The school held a meeting last week with the Board of Health to discuss loosening up occupancy guidelines on buses; the School Committee will consider a compromise between current practice and the new state recommendations at their next meeting.

The COVID discussion wrapped up with a formal vote to participate in the local consortium for a regional vaccination clinic. Acton has offered to be the lead team and will write up the plan, which is modeled on one submitted by the Town of Hopkinton.

Galligan moved that Carlisle join with the other towns in applying to the state for a regional vaccination clinic. Barry seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3. **7:30 Benfield Farms status report**

Beaudry had forwarded to the Board an email from Sylvia Willard, Conservation Administrator, on a meeting with town counsel Tom Harrington, and Conservation Commission (CC) members Lee Tatistcheff (Chair) and Alex Parra. Counsel had been asked to review the legal documents relative to the Benfield Farms Conservation Restriction and Easements.

Harrington advised the following:

1. The septic field does not need to be constrained to the easement since the easement was a local initiative and can be amended.
2. CC, BOH, and Select Board should work together to find the best area for the system.
3. The proposed work will not require a change to the Conservation Restriction so there is no need to go to the state.
4. The CC will expect that when the work is done the septic field will look like a meadow, not a mounded field.
5. If further access is needed to Tom Harrington then the BOH should go through the Select Board.

The question of putting the system on Lot 3 had been raised earlier since it is not part of the Conservation Restriction but held by the Recreation Commission. Beaudry said the land is heavily forested and according to older soil tests has a high water table and less favorable percolation rates (12-18 mpi compared to 5 mpi on Lot 4). Beaudry was not able to get an exact estimate for locating a system on Lot 3 but indicated that with the land clearing it might be \$75,000-\$100,000 above the cost of the system on Lot 4 estimated to be around \$120,000. Beaudry felt this was impractical.

Beaudry would like to have the location decided so he can move forward with the design. His proposed design would include a 4.0' separation to groundwater using the .9' groundwater mounding calculation of the original septic design. This would put the mound approximately 10" above existing grade. It would be possible to fit it within the contours of the proposed location to make it acceptable to the Conservation Commission. The Board noted that a recent study conducted by Onsite Engineering referred to a 2.6' groundwater mounding offset. Beaudry said this would put the finished grade 3.5' above ground and make it very hard to blend in with the natural setting. Beaudry suggested the Board be flexible on this issue since the effluent will have received pre-treatment. He noted that the metered flows averaged 1000 GPD or approximately 25% of the Title 5 Design flows of 3900 GPD. In response to a question from the Board, Beaudry explained that 10-12 soil tests were done with at least 6 test pits within the proposed footprint. Beaudry was confident that the soils were well defined. He is considering using a GeoMat alternative technology which would lower the height of the mound.

Beaudry says the treatment component is not yet designed but he would like to begin work on the disposal field, possibly facilitated by having two disposal permits (one for the field and one for the treatment system). Access to the leaching area via a cart path can be problematic during wet weather and will require an Order of Conditions. Beaudry would like to start work on the field before the wet summer weather. A second permit would be obtained for the treatment unit design.

There was considerable discussion of this request and the history of the system.

The board discussion, with former board members Risso and Storrs, included the following:

- Testing and experience indicate that the soils in the former field still have red flags and the potential for problems in the substrate layer. This may be true of the new location which is adjacent.
- Any design needs to provide high assurance of protecting public health; use of metered flows is not practical since there is no way of predicting future uses.
- While Beaudry must balance acceptability to CC, the BOH purview is public health. The CC function is complementary, and their terms may include appearance and issues related to use of the land.
- Construction should not begin on part of the system until both the pre-treatment and disposal field have been designed and the integration considerations are set; two permits may be confusing although only a single Certificate of Compliance would be issued for the system.
- Questions were raised about the likely design of the field. Beaudry reported that the preliminary design used a PercRite system (same as original system) because other alternatives would require more fill. He is proposing a GeoMat system which will require upgrading the pump chambers.
- As far as digging out the existing leaching field and using Title 5 sand, Beaudry reported that test pits revealed impermeable soil to ~7' depth so this would not be an option.
- Like the current system, a "canary well" will be present.
- Flow rates should not be reduced; a larger, more robust system is the better approach.
- Historically, solids were pumped into the field. The PercRite system is sensitive to solids and clogging, which raised concerns about potential failure. The pre-treatment is critical because plugging up the PercRite can push liquid through a few spots, which will bubble up to the surface. If a drip system is used, a filter should be incorporated prior to the drip system with an alarm that is set off when the flow slows down or stops.
- The whole design should be presented to the board, along with consideration of pre-treatment potential problems and how they would affect the system.
- Access to the field is limited to a small window of time so timely design and approval are critical.

Beaudry is meeting with CC two days hence and will provide a preliminary design at the next BOH meeting. The Board agreed on the following:

- The Board will not entertain any waiver requests,
- System must be designed according to Title 5 Minimum Flow Rates and not actual metered flows
- A decision must be made on what systems are being proposed for leaching field and pre-treatment
- It would be helpful to demonstrate what a conventional Title 5 system would look like
- Preliminary plans for the leaching area should be submitted so that Rob Frado has time to review before the next meeting. This will not be a full technical review but an assessment of the assumptions of the design. The plans do not need to include full construction details.

It was noted that Title 5 systems >2000 gpd require an independent review of ground water mounding, which will be arranged. The Board reiterated that its decisions will be based on protecting the public health and the environment. Conservation and esthetic features must be secondary. The Board is willing to consider CC's input but is obligated to follow Title 5.

4. Other business

No additional information on FY22 budget or personnel.

2020 Concord Carlisle Community Chest (CCCC) grant -- Fantasia and Galligan met virtually with Executive Director Jennifer Ubaldino. CCCC recognized the difficulty in using grant funds during 2020 and is willing to extend the completion date to the end of 2021. One of CCCC's interests is the mental health impacts of COVID, especially on children, and we discussed outreach on mental health as a grant deliverable. Following the CCCC meeting, Fantasia met with colleagues from nearby towns and the group will share costs and sponsor a series of workshops for parents and children.

27 Old East Street and Open Space are postponed to the next meeting.

The next meeting is set for 3/23/21.

Galligan moved to adjourn, Barry seconded and the motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 21:04.

Respectfully submitted,

David Erickson,
Recorder

(All documents discussed during this meeting are available for review upon request in the office of the Board of Health)