

BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes for Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7:00 PM
Remote Participation

- 7:00 Community Input
- 7:05 COVID-19 – Community Status
- 7:15 Fern’s Country Store- Food Establishment Permit

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Benfield Farms
- Septic Upgrade Status Report
 - Indoor Air Quality Update
 - Health Survey

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.

Attendance members: Jean Barry, Patrick Collins, David Erickson, Cathy Galligan; Absent Tony Mariano

Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Karina Coombs (Carlisle Mosquito), Wayne Davis (Town Moderator), Matt Herweck (Ferns), Chris Johnson, Tricia McGean (Public Health Nurse), Drew McMorrow (Recreation Commission), David Model (Select Board)

1. Community Input

At 19:00 Erickson opened the meeting.

Drew McMorrow said that in 2017/18 he worked with the Board of Health on dog control. One of the items was to create a dog park at the Banta Davis land and he would like the BOH to support an Article at Town Meeting. He believes that it is a public health measure from dog waste left on the soccer field and hopefully the dog park would help keep dogs off soccer field. The Stanton Foundation would fund 90% of the cost and the CPA CPC (Community Preservation Act Community Preservation Committee) would like the BOH to support this measure. Fantasia will put it on the BOH agenda for a future meeting.

2. COVID-19 community status

The criteria for obtaining a booster shot are on the town web site. Other towns are not running booster clinics, but people can make an appointment at the pharmacy.

McGean said Carlisle has seen 11 cases with 18 cases over the three towns in the last day. Concord had 24 in the last week (youngest was 34) and Lincoln had 5 cases over the last week. McGean said the FDA met today to discuss the upcoming season, but she has not heard the results of that meeting. McGean expects there will be more clinics in the fall, and she suggested that Purple Shield could help with a clinic. She said that many people experienced no symptoms or merely a scratchy throat. PCR or antigen tests are available at

CVS. It was noted that there is a homebound vaccination program where people can call and have someone come and administer a booster shot. The expiration of iHealth test kits has been extended by 3 months.

3. Ferns Country Store – Public Water Supply update (Herweck)

Herweck said that Ferns installed an emergency temporary disinfectant system which has been approved by the DEP. It is a chlorination system with the water tested weekly to ensure that the mechanical valve dispenses .5ml/cl. The next step is to make the disinfection system permanent. They are currently more than in compliance with DEP standards. In addition to the disinfection system, they will hopefully install a new well within about 6 months. They have closed on the purchase of the property so they now have full control over the property. That does mean that they are now responsible for other DEP issues, specifically, dealing with previous soil contamination. They will be working on that after dealing with the water issues. It was suggested that they might want to look at that as they are doing the well as soil cleanup could conceivably affect the well.

Galligan noted that the deli had been reopened without a permit. There was some discussion of this, and it was noted that while the DEP approved the system Herweck should have come to the BOH before reopening the deli. It seemed that this was an oversight on Herweck's part and that while there may have been no malice on his part it should still be documented.

Galligan moved that Fantasia issue a letter noting the noncompliance to the food code with copies to Select Board, which issues the victuals and liquor licenses. Barry seconded the motion which was then approved unanimously.

A food permit inspection is scheduled for next week. Fantasia also recommended additional unannounced inspections for this year.

4. Town Meeting Planning

Barry summarized what Fantasia had reported earlier: other towns are preparing for indoor meetings, Bedford will require masks, other towns will not. Some towns will distribute tests before. All towns are considering separate areas for people who want to wear masks.

David Model wondered why we would not mandate masks at town meeting. Barry pointed out that a mandate of any kind should be used judiciously and brings with it legal issues. A strong recommendation to wear masks would be appropriate at this time.

Model asked whether there were surplus masks available. Fantasia said we do not have KN95, but we do have surgical masks. Fantasia has ordered 100- KN95 masks which the CDC says are 83% effective.

Galligan asked if there were any circumstance where we would say that people should wear a mask. Davis said that just as the BOH has special powers the moderator has powers as well for regulating what goes on in the town meeting. There is a good legal argument that Davis could require people to wear masks, however there were a couple of issues with Carlisle mask mandates in the past and Davis will not pursue a mandate on his own since the BOH is advocating recommended mask use. In a past Town Meeting, people who refused to mask were given a place to sit but it got messy. Fortunately, they were able to deescalate, but he is hesitant to revisit the issue. Davis does like the idea of encouraging people to test themselves

and he thinks a lot of people will test. Davis checked in with the school, seating in the auditorium with the back open is >460 and they do have some number of air filters. Davis expects 175-200 people to attend, he would like us to have a vote to encourage masking and pre-meeting testing. Barry said it would also be good to put it in the mosquito.

Barry moved that the BOH support the following measures during the town meeting of 4/25: provide for physical distance, use high quality air filters to improve air quality, strongly encourage masks to be worn by everyone, provide an area where only masked people can sit, and encourage everyone to take an antigen test before the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Barry will work with Davis to get something in next week's Mosquito and Fantasia will determine whether tests will be available to distribute.

5. Benfield update/air quality

Carlos Quintal does not yet have an agreement with the Carlisle Housing Trust. McGean has produced some questions to ask residents about air quality and Fantasia will ask NOAH about contacting residents.

6. Minutes 3/23/22

Galligan moved to approve the 3/23/22 minutes as amended. Collins seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

7. Hazardous Waste

Galligan was talking to the workers at the transfer station, and she said we did not have a date for hazardous waste day. They had hoped to have two hazardous waste days, they said a lot of people are asking about it and they have also asked about motor oil. They suggested that we put something in the Mosquito about hazardous waste--there are two alternatives, they can drive to Clean Harbors in Braintree or NEDT in Sutton. Galligan thinks it is a good idea to put something in the Mosquito. We currently have no plan to resume collecting motor oil as there is too much liability, someone once polluted the motor oil with PCBs and cost the town thousands of dollars, in any case, used motor oil can be returned to the place of purchase under Massachusetts law.

8. Adjourn

Collins moves to adjourn, Barry seconded, and approved unanimously. Adjourned at 20:29. Next meetings are set for 4/20/22

David Erickson,
Recorder