

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
7:00 PM
Remote Participation**

7:00 Minutes

7:15 Old Home Day Planning (Niles Cocanour)

7:30 Reciprocal Hazardous Waste Agreement (Barney Arnold)

7:45 Summer Fun Program (Holly Mansfield)

8:00 Benfield Farms

. Peer Review Consultant Selection

. Research report from Meridian Engineering

Discussion Items

COVID-19 status report

Public Health Excellence Grant

Town Caucus

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.

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

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

Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Mark Beaudry (Meridian), Dave Erickson, Niles Cocanour, Christie Cocanour, Phil Giffie, Holly Mansfield, Barney Arnold, Launa Zimmaro, Mal Nelson, Rob Frado, Mike Moreau, Carlos Quintal, Ginny Turner

1. Minutes

Minutes are postponed to the next meeting.

2. Old Home Day Planning (Niles Cocanour)

The committee started meeting several months ago, at the time there were 2 dates proposed 6/26 and 9/25 and 6/26 was finally selected. There will be a number of changes this year as a result of Covid. There will be a staggered start for the road races, cakes will be displayed at the school (FRS will be closed) with one way and limited traffic for the viewing, the pet show will be virtual (which will also be easier on the pets). Mask wear will be encouraged outside and required inside. It is undecided whether there will be food trucks--if there are people must take their food and sit to eat it. There will be games, some games, like the egg toss, lend themselves to social distancing. If there is a town fair it will be in the school parking lot. The committee will watch the swap meet for ideas on the town fair and will keep the BOH apprised of their plans.

3. Reciprocal Hazardous Waste Agreement

Barney Arnold is the liaison to the Energy Task Force, and she reached out to Julie Green, the regional coordinator for The Mass CEP (Comprehensive Energy Plan) about recycling hazardous waste. The concept of the "Massachusetts Reciprocal Arrangement for Hazardous Waste Disposal" was before the board a while ago. This arrangement would mean residents of other towns could participate in Carlisle Hazardous Waste Day and Carlisle residents participate in hazardous waste collection in other towns. Green says that in her experience the number of non residents that show up is usually very small; on May 1, Dracut had 100 cars of which 5 were non residents, which is typical of a small town. Non residents would need to pay and there was concern about collecting the payments of non residents. Collaborating with other towns could give us points with the state that could provide some value to Carlisle. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting, in the meantime, Arnold explained, Green has allowed us to tentatively put our name on a list, but Carlisle residents cannot go to other towns unless we execute the Reciprocal Agreement.

4. Summer Fun Program (Holly Mansfield)

Holly Mansfield has sent the Summer Fun Program description (June 20 to Aug 6) to the BOH. There will not be an extended day program. The participants will be in pods with 4 groups of 10 for a maximum of 40 participants. Kids will stay within their pods for the day with no intermingling. They are still considering whether they should keep siblings together and they are unsure whether kids will need to wear masks at activities. They will be following good hand washing routines, cleaning bathrooms and porta potties twice a day which will be available only for fun day kids. Last year they did pre-screening; they had parents fill out a form every day and it went smoothly. Mansfield wanted to know if that would be necessary this year. After doing screening questions the child would leave the car with the parents staying in the car. If any household tests positive, then their child could not come and if anyone in a pod tests positive then the pod will be barred from continuing the program until everyone is cleared. Mariano thought that outdoor masks are not required but Fantasia said that the governor has not yet changed the mask mandate. Fantasia said that they had no cases last year, but that prescreening will still be required, pods can go to 25 and siblings do not need to be together. Mansfield said they have a wait list so they could increase the pod size, but they wouldn't want to go over 12.

5. Peer Review Consultant Selection

Fantasia: three peer review quotes came in with one coming in lower. Mariano, Galligan, and Barry seemed to prefer Peter Shanahan of Hydro Analysis. Shanahan worked on the Woodward Village project.

6. Research report from Meridian Engineering

Beaudry said that the board had asked him to investigate alternatives to the proposed system. He has looked at the Presby Environmental disposal system, but the primary purpose tonight is to talk about pretreatment since disposal was largely covered last time. Beaudry asked Mike Moreau to attend to talk about the existing FAST system and Carlos Quintal who is familiar with other types of systems. Quintal has been designing waste treatment systems since 1980 and with about 40 treatment plants throughout Massachusetts has a good understanding of how they work. He said that for a treatment plant, 20ppm of nitrogen (N) is the permit number. A recirculating sand filter will give you that a number but there are other alternatives. Regardless of the system, some type of fixed film bacterial growth is required to obtain the correct nitrogen discharge. In the Fast system, there is one tank with the bacterial film and the introduction of oxygen supports aerobic digestion, but the biological oxygen demand (BOD) needs to be controlled. Orenco, sand filters, Bioclere (AquaPoint) are other alternatives, but they all need careful monitoring at least during start up. They are all capable of doing 20ppm but they must be optimized, ideally you would look at alkalinity and BOD on a daily basis. Quintal would recommend minimizing the addition of carbon (Micro C) in the beginning until the system adjusts. Adding carbon can easily send BOD sky high. Quintal wouldn't advise something brand new at this stage for Benfield, it could be just as bad as what we have currently. Galligan asked whether a sand filter would be an option. Quintal didn't think a sand filter provided adequate flexibility; he has one in Wrentham that is not working well but you can't see it--the bacterial mat is not allowing filtration, but you can't tell from the top. Frado asked what the first step would be, and Quintal said the when the leaching area is functional go through the MicroFast, turn on the air, and see what comes out. He would like to see 4 to 5 times daily flow or higher recycled. You won't get denitrification until you get rid of the oxygen but by recycling you use a carbon source that is already part of the system, ideally it would work without the Micro C. It has been done but it's not easy.

Mike Moreau said Waste Treatment Systems (WTS) has been involved from the beginning; they changed from monthly to quarterly monitoring as time went on. He agrees that this is a water chemistry issue--with any onsite technology you don't have all the controls that you would have in a larger plant. Benfield is limited because it does not have a lot of food waste or soap but there is also a lot of variation in both BOD and Nitrogen which is somewhat unusual. Recirculation can help smooth out the variability and Quintal thinks that we should monitor as closely as possible, ideally at least testing alkalinity daily. Once the system is optimized testing could be scaled back. Quintal will be available to Beaudry as a consultant. Mariano thanked Quintal and Moreau and said he thinks the alternatives would not be an improvement at this time.

Beaudry then describe the Presby system. It consists of a 12" perforated tube wrapped in a material with a geotextile around it. Bedding area can slope with the slope and the tubes can be laid as close as 1.5' on center but

each section handles 500gal/day, so it requires 8 sections to get over 3900gal/day. It does not require pressure dosing and so does not require another pump station; the existing effluent pump can go to an 8 outlet D box. Each section is independent, and you need a foot of sand all around so the footprint would be 48'*87'. It is 28" from the bottom of the sand to finish grade so assuming a .9' mound and 4' ground water separation you end up with 1.9' of fill on the low side going to 2.4-2.5' fill on high side. The ground water separation could go down to 2' (with a perc rate of 2min/"). It's a great system and provides additional nitrogen removal--although MA doesn't give credit for that. We could safely go with some reduced ground water separation and still get appropriate ground water quality. A new compliance well will be installed. It would cost more than the perc-rite system, but the Board may feel more comfortable with this going forward--especially since it doesn't require another pump station with a 2-3hp pump in the field.

Mariano asked when Beaudry will be presenting to ConsCom on the wetland crossing, Beaudry said the next ConsCom meeting is May 27, but he hopes to submit the design by next week. Frado asked whether it will you show 2' or 4' separation--Beaudry will probably show something in the middle—he is not looking for full relief to 2' ground water separation but would probably be looking for about a 3' separation--he thinks it would satisfy the BOH and ConsCom which manages the land under a conservation restriction. Galligan said that Beaudry should not assume that he can use the middle ground option which requires a waiver approval from the Board. Beaudry said he will submit a preliminary design and the board can comment.

Beaudry has not submitted to ConsCom yet because he is trying to get information from the installer about whether they can get around the boulder in the cart path. The installer has not yet been able to get out to examine the situation--but they are very supportive of the Presby system--they have installed hundreds of them.

Beaudry has also been talking to Steve Smith at Geo-Hydrocycle and he says dry monitoring wells are common because of ledge; Mariano would like to entertain the possibility of moving the well a bit to avoid it going dry.

7. COVID-19 status report

There was only one new case in Carlisle in the last 2 weeks; the testing positivity rate is .5%. There is a lot of talk of Pfizer being available for 12-15 year olds but the only ones doing this now are doing it under FDA approval, the American Academy of Pediatrics has not yet approved it but that may happen soon. Barry said that Middlesex had 18 cases recently and Concord had a huge cluster which shut their school down for a couple of weeks. The Carlisle school has been doing pod testing without a positive result and the fire department has not had a positive result since April 27.

Galligan asked Fantasia to read an encouraging article in the NY Times that there is less concern about getting Covid from out of door activity, there is a much reduced risk outdoors, even if you are just few feet apart. Pfizer and Moderna work well against the variants but some of the other vaccinations don't work as well. Fantasia reported that unfortunately a Carlisle resident has traveled to India where he caught Covid and died.

8. Public Health Excellence Grant

Five towns including Carlisle were awarded \$300,000. The money will be used to hire and share additional staff – public health nurse, health educator and sanitarian. There will be a meeting this week to work out details.

9. Town Caucus

Town Caucus will be this Thursday. It is only necessary to attend if you are nominating someone, Galligan will attend as she is nominating someone in another group but as yet there are no candidates for the BOH; if anyone can find someone let Fantasia know. Thorsen asked if candidates need signatures and Galligan said no unless you skipped the nomination, in which case the number of signatures required has been reduced to 10.

10. Miscellaneous

Fantasia and Galligan still have reservations about hazardous waste--that will be discussed at the next meeting. Barry moved to adjourn; Thorsen seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 21:34, next meeting May 25, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

David Erickson,

Recorder