

BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 7:00 PM
Remote Participation

7:00 Community Input

7:05 COVID-19 Community Updates

- Local case summary
- PCR testing discontinued as of 6/30/22
- MAVEN case follow-up discontinued as of 6/30/22
- Test Kit Availability

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Benfield Farms –

- FAST system update
- Duct Cleaning report

Woodward Village – septic system progress

Minutes 5/16/22 and 6/8/22

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: Patrick Collins, Jean Barry, David Erickson, Cathy Galligan

Absent member: Tony Mariano Chairman,

Attendance nonmembers: Fantasia Health Agent, Tricia McGean RN, Sam Cochrane (Mosquito), Maureen Cosgrove-Deery, Carlos Quintal, Bev Shorey

1. Community Input

Dave Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. There was no community input.

2. COVID-19 community status

McGean said that as of July we are no longer reaching out to cases in town or testing. In the last 7 days Carlisle has had 18 confirmed cases with 4 under 18 years of age, the previous week we saw 4 cases with 1 under 18. The Omicron BA.5 variant is dominant now and, in the Fall, we should have an Omicron booster. There is also work on a Covid/Flu 2023 vaccine. Other towns have seen mild to moderate illness with a few in the hospital and there has been an uptick of Covid in wastewater. The first case of West Nile Fever in Eastern Massachusetts has been diagnosed and there have been 43 cases of Monkey Pox.

Fantasia noted that the fire department has discontinued PCR testing, but we have received 900 rapid tests from the State they will be available at various sites around town, and it

should be noted that the expirations date has been extended by 3 months. Since we are no longer doing follow up it is harder to follow the local situation.

3. Benfield – CAQ report

Quintal said that it has been a slow process but that is not entirely unexpected. They have low flow <2000 gal/day so the system is not getting enough sewage for efficient conversion of nitrate to nitrite so they will be slowing the recycling rate to improve that. The first set of samples are going to the lab (on 7/13/22) so they should have results in a week. Total nitrogen will still be on the high side. They need to optimize recirculation/recycling. The pumps are still down at the moment but using the pump would only make things worse and repairing them would currently disrupt the system. The low flow is making things difficult, but they will have a better idea after getting the lab results back.

Fantasia received a report from Mal Nelson that the duct cleaning is complete, and the filters are being replaced and they should all be replaced in week or two. Nelson has not seen dust buildup and has had positive comments from some of the residents following the duct cleaning. One resident does not believe the cleaning has been effective, but Nelson believes it is premature to make any final judgments. .It can take 60-90 days to get results.

4. Woodward Village

Work is continuing on the septic system. There has been limited field work with most of the Board’s engineering time spent on As Built and photo reviews of the force main installation.

5. Minutes 5/16/22 and 6/8/22

Barry moved to approve the 5/16/22 minutes as amended, noting the .48% covid positivity should have been 8.48%. Collins seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Galligan moved to accept the 6/8/22 minutes amended to include a statement that it would not be appropriate to ask staff to give up personal time to staff an Old Home Day Booth following the significant unpaid overtime staff has been doing during the COVID response Collins seconded, and they were approved 3-0 with Barry who did not attend the meeting abstaining.

6. Administrative Reports were distributed but not discussed.

7. Adjourn

Barry moves to adjourn, Collins seconds which was approved. Meeting adjourned at 19:57. The next meeting will be Monday 8/22/22 at 7:00 pm via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
David Erickson,
Recorder