



Town of Oak Bluffs  
Board of Health  
P.O. Box 1327  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
508-693-3554 Ext. 127

William White  
Chairperson

James Butterick  
Thomas Zinno  
Board Members

Garrett Albiston  
Health Agent

Alexa Arieta  
Assistant Health Agent

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2023 – 10:00 AM

In accordance with Governor Healey's extension of the temporary provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting was held virtually.

**Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno**

**Others Present: Garrett Albiston, Alexa Arieta, Lorna Welch, Marc Drainville, Anastasia Rudenko, Patrick Hickey**

### APPOINTMENTS/DISCUSSION

- **Marc Drainville – Engineer at GHD**

- **Discussion of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan**

- Mr. Drainville shares his screen to present. Oak Bluffs is in a similar position to other coastal towns in the state. The state has been allowing alternatives to sewerage and conventional technology to make things more cost effective to the homeowners and the towns. The state needs to consider cost effective ways to treat a problem. If money was no object, all these areas would be sewerage. Oak Bluffs is the first on the island to tackle this problem. Tisbury is close behind us, and they have collaborated with them as we have a shared watershed.
- 85% of Oak Bluffs use septic systems. Title V systems are not designed to remove nitrogen.
- Based on 2040 projections, (through Mass Estuaries) 63% of nitrogen needs to be removed from the Lagoon Pond watershed to restore pond to natural habitat.
- Oak Bluffs Wastewater Facility is reaching design capacity and design life and needs attention and is already underway. The design is near complete and waiting for state approval.
- Technology-Non sewerage alternatives for effluent removal, where possible, which is more cost effective. (I/A systems, permeable reactive barriers, inlet widening)
- What are the most cost-effective places to sewer?
- Provisional systems such as the Nitrex and John Smith
- Land use controls: set of total nitrogen limits by parcel, flow neutral bylaws would need to adopt.
- Mr. Albiston asks how this lines up with Lagoon Pond DCPC, which is already in place and is more restrictive than what they are proposing.

- Mr. Albiston estimates over \$39 million to upgrade all the properties in the Lagoon Pond area to I/A systems that will be affected by the regulation.
- Mr. Zinno talks about the cost differential from sewer to I/A system requirements. The sewerage is paid for by the taxpayers, and tie ins are paid for by homeowners over a course of 20 years. An I/A system will be paid for by the homeowner immediately.
- SRF (State revolving fund) is an option, which is a loan funding mechanism throughout the county.
- Are there any systems for 11Mg approved for general use? No. They are only provisional.
- Mr. Albiston states that the systems in use to perform to 19mg/lit-70% do not perform as intended.
- Monitoring of the I/A program would be a requirement.
- Mr. Albiston speaks to the PRB (permeable reactive barrier) This would need extensive approval by BOH and Conservation. This can be done with well injection (of a type of vegetable oil) or wood chips. This is not yet approved by DEP.
- Monitoring well network would be put in place throughout the area.
- Sewering extension targets density and is close to the pond and to the current treatment plant.
- 41% of the properties with the I/A identified area will need to be upgraded. The town would set this regulation and identify the triggers for upgrade (sale, failed system, 10-year mark etc.)
- Mr. Zinno asks why the sewerage area is not more directly targeting the coastline properties. Ms. Rudenko explains the nitrogen loading is higher at the lower end of the pond, and this was the most cost effective and efficient way to address this issue.
- Mr. Zinno requests numbers of properties affected. 383 properties will be sewerage in east arm. 614 will need I/A Systems in East arm. 200 in Majors cove.
- Mr. Albiston points out only two manufacturers are being recommended. Can they keep up with the demand required?
- Implementation schedule shows a course of 30 years-with anticipated annual costs for sewerage and I/A program financing (tax credits, CPC funds, and potential funding through MVC)
- Each town needs to apply separately for the SRF program. Wellfleet is currently working through approval for an I/A SRF program through the state.
- CWMP Recommendations are setting up a watershed permit to be put in place to have some level of planning and control before the forced IA Systems will be put in place by MASS DEP regulations affecting Title V.
- Flow neutral bylaw would be implemented if Town Financing through SRF was in place.
- Town dept or third party would need to oversee the monitoring of the I/A program. (RME)
- Mr. Albiston asks for cost comparison for annual or long-term fees between sewerage properties vs properties requiring I/A systems.
- Infrastructure will need to be set up to handle this.
- Mr. Hickey states that effluent disposal makes the sewerage expensive. Adding effluent disposal would require removal of the neighboring little league field.

- Mr. Butterick asks who has to accept the CWMP proposal. Mr. Albiston explains that the BOH needs to approve the I/A system requirements before the Select Board can accept it.
- Mr. Drainville states that sewerage and inlet widening could be done without further state approval. All other components of the plan would require further state approval. More work on these unapproved systems needs to happen.

Mr. White needs to depart for an 11:30 meeting (11:19 AM). He asks the meeting to continue on without him.

A zoom meeting with all parties is to be scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00PM.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- May 9, 2023
  - Minutes need to be voted on by Mr. Butterick and Mr. White. (Mr. Zinno was not present at this meeting).
- May 23, 2023
  - Mr. Zinno makes a motion to approve. Mr. White seconds. Approved 2-0. (Mr. Butterick was not present at this meeting)

Mr. Butterick makes a motion to adjourn at 11:30. Mr. Zinno seconds. Adjourned 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Alexa Arieta, Assistant Health Agent.