



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
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William White
Chairman
James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members
Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH
July 13, 2021 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch, Maura McGroarty, Allyson Malik

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- April 6, 2021 - Approved
- April 27, 2021 - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- East Chop Lighthouse – discussion of remediation efforts

Ms. Lancaster shared the document/map that showed the area the Coast Guard plans to remediate and they discussed the areas around that where they want to have tested by the Town. She also stated that we already have a professional relationship with Sovereign Consulting who does the town's landfill monitoring and testing and they could possibly do this testing as well. She will contact the company to see if this is possible. There was further discussion regarding procurement protocol.

Ms. Brough stated that the Coast Guard is in front of the Select board tonight to ask for permission to access the land for the second phase of the remediation, which is the ecological dig. If the BOH wanted to join the meeting they might have an opportunity to ask a couple of questions.

Ms. McGroarty requested the Parks Dept. be kept in the loop because it is Parks Departments land and they have extra responsibilities for that area beyond the town. Ms. Lancaster stated that they are part of all of our correspondence regarding the lighthouse and are already in the loop.

- **Mask Usage in Municipal Buildings**

Ms. Lancaster stated that we have a low number of Covid cases coming in right now. There was discussion about the Delta variant and the effects in Provincetown. Ms. Malik gave an update on the library stating that 10% (20 to 30) of kids are coming in with their families to browse. Because they are limiting the number of people and require masks it makes it possible to keep doing what they are doing. Mask compliance in the 7/13/2021

library has been excellent. She would like to keep the mask mandate in place in the library until Labor Day and then reevaluate. Ms. McGroarty stated that she felt the Town Hall was different from any of the other municipal buildings because of the small space of the trailers. Ms. Lancaster suggested having signs for the Town Hall that say “mask usage strongly recommended”. Mr. Butterick questioned the effectiveness of the ventilation in the trailers and was also concerned about the small space. Ms. Lancaster responded that the ventilation in the town hall is 500% better than it was in the old building and also most people have windows they can open to get fresh air. It definitely feels better right now and we'll see what happens in the fall of course we can always reserve the right to change paths at a later time but thinks that a simple message of mask wearing being strongly recommended or preferred would suffice. Ms. Brough agreed with Ms. Lancaster regarding a strong recommendation for mask wearing in town hall.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to keep the mask mandate at the library in place until Labor Day and rescind the mask mandate in the Town Hall and replace with a strongly recommended mask usage policy and signage. All in favor.

- **Correspondence – Letter from Nelia and Chris Decker**
 - **Opposition to artificial turf at MVRHS**

Ms. Lancaster stated that it was her understanding that originally this turf was supposed to be PFAS free. A sample of this turf was sent out to be tested. There is list of six PFAS chemicals that are being regulated in the drinking water starting in October of 2020. There are multiple states that are banning if for food packaging and firefighting foams. It is likely that the exclusions are going to expand to other products as well. She shared a slideshow of a class from Toxic Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell. After going through the slideshow with the Board she stated that the biggest message for this takeaway is this sort of decision tree when dealing with PFAS substances, if there is a viable alternative the recommendation is to use that alternative. We know in this instance with the field at the high school that there is an alternative and that is natural grass. She feels that is something that really needs to be considered due to this change in plan.

Ms. Lancaster stated that Ewell Hopkins is pretty insistent that it does fall under a special permit review process for the planning board under the 8.2 section referring to the water resource protection overlay district which is a zoning regulation. She gave more examples of other States that have banned these PFAS substances. She also wondered if there was the possibility for a regulatory approach for the BOH and doesn't understand the logic of wanting to put something that is a regulated substance on top of a water protection overlay. It makes no sense. Mr. Butterick agreed. Mr. Zinno stated that the scary thing is that the town wells are already testing with these contaminants in them.

Ms. Lancaster stated that the problem is that MVRHS is going to go back to the Dover Amendment because they are an educational institution and insist the zoning doesn't apply to them. What the Planning Board is trying to do is invoke the special permit process which would give them more review powers over the project and is considering the high schools application incomplete.

There was further discussion about the utilization of toxic substances in relation to specific activities and the concern of the 45 day time frame for constructive approval. Mr. Zinno made a recommendation to make a public statement or letter to the editor that the BOH has concerns about the proposed turf containing PFAS substances and this could affect our sole source aquifer.

Ms. Lancaster stated that she has been looking into this and we could have the option theoretically of having some sort of regulation that would not allow this to occur. Mr. Zinno stated that we should move forward with both things, looking into what our options are in terms of what we could do, as far as the local regulations and a letter of concern. Ms. Lancaster stated she would draft a letter and get Mr. White review and sign off.

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **ORME septic tracking software demo**

Ms. Lancaster stated that this software could be revenue stream for us because it's \$50.00 with Barnstable to track each property with I/A systems and they still have issues with following through. We also get charged \$3.00 from the software company so if we took that onboard we would have a revenue source that would pay for in terms of inputting etc. The software also has a decent amount of reports that you can export to excel which is great. You can create your own schematic without have to rely on pre-canned reports but they also have a lot of pre-canned reports. They have good alerts for non-compliance and we can do data exports to GIS and it would basically have all the information for that property. If we got this up and running we would take all the new systems or upgrades that are installed and get digital plans for it and create digital property files for the septic. We would still need some of our other paper files, but we would be able to really eliminate a lot of the septic information that we have in our filing cabinets and probably shrink down our paper footprint quite a bit.

We are also going to take a look at some other systems but this one was pretty good. There was further discussion regarding Barnstable tracking service and the Tisbury regulations that they passed.

Mr. Butterick made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENTS: High School athletic field letter from Martha Moore; Turf installation at the MVRHS letter form Nalia Decker; TURI Institute Slide Show; Lighthouse heat map for lead