



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

William White
Chair

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Garrett Albiston
Health Agent

Alexa Arieta
Assistant Health Agent

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 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, Thomas Zinno, James Butterick

Others Present: Garrett Albiston, Alexa Arieta, Lorna Welch

Chairman opens the meeting at 10:01AM.

DISCUSSION

- ARPA Septic Grant distribution guidelines
 - Application will go online with the county any day now.
 - Oak Bluffs will receive \$315K to distribute.
 - County has guidelines of < 240% AMI of county (single person 210K, family of 4 \$300K)
 - Grant cannot be used for an increase in flow.
 - Must be year-round residents.
 - Not for new construction.
 - Should criteria include properties 1500 feet from the pond? Or the CWMP overlay district for upgrades?
 - Mr. Albiston suggests capping the funding at 45K per system, since the owners will need to pay for testing going forward. Mr. Butterick had wanted to use a smaller number like 15k, to cover the cost of the enhanced tank, and make better use of our money.
 - Mr. Albiston reminds everyone that the money will need to be allocated within a year, while the CWMP regulations won't be in place for at least a year and a half.
 - Mr. Zinno suggests a 20K figure per household that qualifies, to spread it out to make it last. He does not think the grant should pay for the whole system. There will be more money over time, and low interest loans available.
 - Mr. Albiston reminds the board that Nitro and Nitrex are the required systems for this loan, and that there are no regulations at this time requiring people to upgrade. We should be trying to encourage people to install these and to upgrade.
 - Mr. Zinno suggests tying this into the CWMP regulations, and Mr. Albiston reminds him that this piece is not on the agenda, and we should not be discussing additional proposed regulations that aren't listed.

- Mr. Albiston asks for a finite figure. The funds must be allocated by Sept 2024, or the county reserves the right to re-allocate the funds.
- Ms. Arieta states that if a middle-class family has a functioning Title V system, they will not be spending money to upgrade without the incentive for it to be of no cost to them. If they have to upgrade a cesspool and can install a standard Title V, they will likely choose to do that overpaying the extra to install the Nitrex/Nitro systems, along with the testing required. Mr. Albiston states that this testing could run someone 4K a year. Mr. White agrees with this.
- Mr. White suggests we should provide 45K to each contract. Mr. Butterick agrees with this, based on the timeline we have to use the funding and feels we need to provide incentive.
- Mr. Zinno asks that the board take some time to do more research and see what other towns are doing. Mr. Butterick says they should be ready to vote on this at the next meeting on August 1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **May 9, 2023** - Mr. Butterick makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. White. Approved 2-0. (Mr. Zinno was not present at this meeting)
- **June 27, 2023** - Mr. Butterick makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Zinno. Approved 3-0.

AGENT UPDATES

- Mr. Butterick asks if it is possible to make the presentation from the CWMP available on our website. He thinks that at the Lagoon Pond Association meeting last week, they did not have all of the information. He thinks the meeting was lacking in information and he would like the Lagoon Pond Association to have all the information.
- Mr. Zinno states that the new septage plant should be able to receive septic pump out from Oak Bluffs. Currently, haulers need to transport septage off island. The board agrees. Mr. Zinno thinks another workshop should be held amongst the CWMP group.

Mr. Zinno makes a motion to adjourn at 10:58 AM. Mr. Butterick seconds. Adjourned 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Alexa Arieta, Assistant Health Agent