



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

William White  
Chairman

James Butterick  
Thomas Zinno  
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster  
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
July 27, 2021 – MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch, Maura McGroarty, Joe Sullivan, Terry Donahue, Kris O'Brien, Deborah Potter, Kimberly Kirk, Rebekah Thomson

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

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- May 7, 2021 – Postponed (not ready)
- May 19, 2021 - Approved
- May 25, 2021 – Approved

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

- **Review of draft letter regarding MVRHS Turf Project**

Mr. Zinno stated that at the last meeting he made a motion to draft a letter regarding the Boards concerns about the artificial turf and the potential of PFAS contamination of our sole source aquifer. The Board agreed that they would like to acquire more information to make an informed recommendation to the Planning Board regarding this application. Members of the turf project team agreed to give a presentation to the Board. The Board agreed to hold off on sending the letter until they have all the information and have a chance to review. Mr. Sullivan will give the presentation at the next Board meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **Endorsement for State Transfer Fee bills and CCMVHB** – Discussion postponed.
- **Fee for pump chambers, land credits, second inspections and reduction in testing requirements**

Ms. Lancaster went through the new fees and provided the Board with an explanation of work involved for each fee. All fees were approved.

**AGENTS UPDATE:**

- **COVID 19**

Ms. Lancaster expressed concern regarding the local uptick in positive cases and the massive cluster of cases after the Fourth of July weekend, related to travel to Provincetown. She stated that the Delta variant is out there but in order for it to determine if it's a variant it needs to be sent for further lab analysis that's beyond the scope of the normal positive or negative test. We are prioritizing two tests per week that we are allowed to variant test for with vaccine breakthrough cases where people have become symptomatically infected. We are seeing people who are fully vaccinated that are becoming ill with the Delta variant.

Relative to the fact that we might have an uptick we received a \$20,000 gift from an anonymous donor to the boards of health on the island to support contact tracing. We also have a secondary grant through DPH that we applied for to support contact tracing efforts as well for Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. We have two people we are bringing on board, one is bilingual (speaks English and Portuguese for MV) and the other is trilingual (speaks English, Portuguese and Spanish for Nantucket) for contact tracing which will be a great help.

- **Restaurant Inspections**

Ms. Lancaster stated that she has been disappointed with her operational inspections so far. It seems as some fundamental food safety concepts have been lost. The general claim is that they are really busy and short staffed. There have been stunning critical violations like raw beef leaking over bags of chowder, a bucket of condensate in a walk in with a pretty hardy scum layer of mold on top of it while aerosolizing over the uncovered food in the walk in and sanitizer concentrations that are unacceptable.

We are definitely going to have to work with these establishments, to get them back on track. On the other hand she had an establishment, the other day, which is MV salads that literally had the most perfect inspection she ever had and they have only been doing it for two years and she is really proud of the work that they put in there, it was perfect.

She is also working on a lot of Tularemia cases this year.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENT(S): Draft Septic Fee Schedule