



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**  
**August 24, 2021 – MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch, Adam Cummings, Eric Peters, Robert Brennan, Daryl Coppola

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Lagoon Ridge Subdivision – Review and vote to approve septic plan**

Mr. Coppola shared and presented the Amphidrome system plan that was submitted for the Lagoon Ridge Subdivision. He stated that they made some adjustments to the design and the main adjustments were that they added a denitrification reactor to the system and we also added a 5000 gallon dosing discharge tank. Mr. Brennan from Cape Built stated that they have been working on this over the past two years and Mr. Peters who represented the family through all this will continue on working with them council to maintain that institutional knowledge and keep the project on track. Mr. Brennan continued with a description of the layout of the development.

Ms. Lancaster requested that in the general notes section on item number eight that if site conditions were to change that the engineer would notify the Board of Health. She also inquired about the alarms and requested that the operation and maintenance would be done by someone on the island in case there was an emergency. Mr. Brennan replied that they are lining up who their local operator will be. He also addressed other questions from the Board and Health Agent including their request to add an automatic emergency back-up generator system that would service the Amphadrome system including all grinders and system pumps. Ms. Lancaster asked if they would draft a letter to the Board of Health talking about these bullet points that they discussed today so they have that in writing above and beyond the plans sheets. Mr. Brennan replied yes and Ms. Lancaster stated she would send him an email with all the bullet points and he could elaborate on them.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to approve with the understanding that an emergency generator system would be included by the applicant for approval by the Board. All in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **July 27, 2021 – Approved**

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

- **Adoption of Model Groundwater Protection Board of Health Regulation as outlined in 310 CMR 22.21(2) of The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations**

Ms. Lancaster stated that this has been in talks for a long time and was an administrative oversight for the town that it was never formally adopted through the DEP. She went on to explain that we have a non-municipal public water supply, so our water department is not specifically part of the town and that the standards that DEP has are slightly different where it's basically best management practices. So what most municipalities do in this instance is adopt this section of the Groundwater Protection Regulations that are under 310 CMR 22, which is the Groundwater Protection Regulation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These specific items that are enumerated in this explain what cannot be done and what may be done with modifications in order to protect groundwater, so this would apply to anything in Zone 2. This allows the BOH to review projects and enforce, if necessary, violations of these regulations. There was further discussion among the Board. Mr. Zinno made a motion to adopt the Groundwater Protection Regulation. All in favor.

- **CWMP Update**

Mr. Zinno stated that it was a Lagoon Pond Association meeting last week and the engineers gave that same presentation basically explaining to everyone that they are working on a plan, similar to what Tisbury is working now which is incorporating sewer, shellfish and permeable reactive barriers to try to get the nitrogen levels down in the ponds. There is a smaller group of primarily Mr. Zinno, Gail Barmakian and the engineers working on how to structure the system and how to finance it. The next stage will be other groups like the Planning Board representative, BOH representative and all the other town Boards are going to be giving input on present needs and future development.

Mr. White inquired about why Ms. Lancaster has not been included in these meetings and noted the benefit of her attendance. Ms. Lancaster stated as the person whose full time job it is to be dealing with this stuff thought it would probably be a good idea to be involved in these conversations sooner rather than later because she thinks she would have some valuable input. Mr. Zinno agreed that Ms. Lancaster should be at the meetings sooner rather than later and stated that he would relay that to Ms. Barmakian that that is the opinion of the BOH.

**AGENTS UPDATE:**

- **COVID updates**

Ms. Lancaster stated that since the indoor mask order went into effect on the 10<sup>th</sup> she has had two organizations ask if it would apply to them. One is for hockey at the Ice Arena and the other was for tennis at the Youth Family Tennis Center. Ms. Lancaster felt she needed to bring this to the Board because it was a mandate by the BOH she did not want to answer those questions without consulting the Board. Last season there was a period of time when masks were required to be worn by players so the question is would the mandate apply currently to hockey. Mr. Cummings spoke about the players and how hard it is for them to wear masks while on the ice and if it would be possible to require them at all other times except while on the ice. They also want to require the coaches to wear masks even though they are vaccinated. Mr. White stated that he can definitely see how having a mask on would impede your breathing because of the intense cardio workout during the short time on the ice. He would feel comfortable with the players not wearing masks

while on the ice. The Board and Health Agents agreed that it would make sense to let the players not wear masks while on the ice only and see how it goes. They can always adjust this decision if it causes a problem.

Ms. Lancaster requested that if people are doing in home test that they report the results to the BOH so we can do contact tracing. She also inquired about tennis and it being a low risk sport. The question that came to her was could they (Vineyard Family Tennis) require a mask with the children players in clinic settings but allow adults and 12 and older that are vaccinated the option of wearing a mask. The Board was fine with that.

Ms. Lancaster presented a 14 day running case count for the island. The testing site is moving to the Ag Hall around the 28<sup>th</sup>. The hospital is overwhelmed with people seeking tests and there is a feeling that people are not being thoroughly honest about being symptomatic because they want quicker results so that is becoming difficult for them to manage; especially since they have started with the booster vaccines for 200 to 300 people that they have identified as high risk and first responders. Then they move to the general public. Two days a week they're doing about 132 tests, four days a week they're doing 65 tests and then the other half is vaccinations so they're just basically doing tests in the morning but they're testing six days a week, right now. Also they are staffed for about 250 calls per day and they are getting about 900 so it's very difficult for them to keep up and people are on hold for a long time. We do have the ability to email them with a list of high priority clusters that we need to prioritize for testing.

We have received a grant \$150,000 per year for two years for contact tracing for a total of \$300,000 which was less than we asked for. The problem is the contact tracing collaborative is sun setting by the end of the year and they are putting all contact tracing on local health. So our contact tracing has increased dramatically and the people that are available to do it the winter are not necessarily available during the summer. We are appealing to the State to see if we can get more money and also checking into other grants because we have tourism from high infection rate areas which is driving number up and our hospitals are over stressed.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENT(S): Lagoon Ridge Subdivision Application and Plans