



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
September 14, 2021 – MINUTES

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Bill Cleary, Dr. Laura Green, Maura McGroarty, Sarah Sylvia

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

APPOINTMENTS:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- August 10, 2021 - Approved
- August 17, 2021 - Approved
- August 24, 2021 - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **Eversource Spraying on power lines in OB**

Ms. Lancaster stated that the only area that they spray in Oak Bluffs is on Beth's Way. There is currently a bill at the State level that Dylan Fernandez has supported called an act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from harmful pesticides. Essentially it would allow local communities to have a say as to what pesticides are utilized in their communities. Ms. Lancaster asked the Board's opinion about writing a letter of support to Mr. Fernandez regarding this bill. The Board agreed to send a letter of support.

- **CWMP Update**

Mr. Zinno stated that there will be broader meeting in 2 to 3 weeks which will bring in members of the community. He suggested having a private meeting with Ms. Lancaster and the engineers to get her up to speed on where they are so far with this project.

- **Local Groundwater Protection Regulation**

Ms. Lancaster stated that she sent the regulation (that was approved on 8/24) to the DEP for registration. She put a notice in the newspapers this week to make sure that it's more broadly distributed. She also sent an email to all of the engineers and all the town boards so people were aware of it. Mr. Zinno suggested possibly in the future adjusting the regulation to include not only Zone 2 by adding the watersheds of Sengekontacket and Lagoon Pond.

9/14/2021

- **Review of MVRHS decision from MVC**

Mr. Zinno stated that he thought it was well put together, but was waiting for more reviews of that. Ms. Lancaster stated that she sent a list of questions to Mr. Huntress who forwarded them to the school committee. She is awaiting response on those items which would address some of those environmental concerns that we've discussed previously and that are raised in the MVC report. Once we have those answers we can put it on the agenda. She asked that in reviewing this document or any other documents, if anyone has any questions to please send them to her and then that way we can keep them all in one place and make sure that all inquiries are addressed.

There was further discussion about how PFAS get into the environment and the potential contamination of the watershed. The discussion also included the degradation and life span of the turf. Mr. Sullivan stated that he would get the field manufacturers to give us more insight as to what would trigger a field replacement and the reasons behind it. He added that the Board could look at the MV Commission's specific conditions that relate to the groundwater observation and instructions that are very detailed.

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **Hiring plan for Assistant Health Agent replacement**

Mr. Albiston, our Assistant Health Agent has moved on to the Conservation Agent position. She would like to hold off on hiring a replacement until January because she has some catching up to do with his loss as well as planning for the FDA National Retail Program Standards which is to develop a training system for the department. She would like to do this self-evaluation process before hiring someone which she feels will be beneficial to the department.

- **Salt Marsh DCPC**

The MV Commission is working on developing a Salt March DCPC for the entire island because the existence of the salt marsh can help mitigate impact from storms. Ms. Lancaster is going to ask Ms. Durkee to do a presentation on this.

- **COVID policies and testing programs for school year 2021/2022**

There is a test and stay program where if a child is identified as a close contact in school they are allowed to remain in school but they have to test for seven days in a row. As long as they test negative they can remain in school.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENT(S): Bill H776