



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
September 28, 2021 – MINUTES

Members Present: James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Member Not Present: William White

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Pio Lombardi, Jill Robie-Axtell, Brian Mackey, Kimberly Kirk, Kris O'Brien

Mr. Zinno called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- September 14, 2021 - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **YMCA Expansion Plan**

Ms. Lancaster stated that what is before us today is the expansion of the YMCA. Dividing the property between septic and sewer, so that a certain amount of affluent would go into the sewer and a certain amount of affluent will go into the proposed septic system. Ms. Robie-Axtell started the presentation/slideshow. After the presentation Ms. Robie-Axtell stated that the YMCA is looking for the BOH to endorse their plan so they can move forward with the next steps which would be to have a discussion with wastewater about the project and then come back to the BOH with more detailed descriptions as to what they are anticipating to do. Mr. Zinno and Mr. Butterick stated that they do endorse their plan so far.

Mr. Zinno asked Mr. Lombardi if he could get us any data on systems that are similar in size and their track record so we can review that prior. Mr. Lombardi stated that he would be happy to forward that right after the meeting.

- **MVRHS Turf Project – discussion and vote of potential further review**

Ms. Lancaster stated that there are two parts to this process. The first being the Groundwater Protection Regulation that is required by DEP to ensure that the municipal water supply for the Town of Oak Bluffs is in compliance with State Regulation. Ms. Lancaster stated she let Mr. Huntress know about 4 or 5 weeks ago that the BOH would need to review this project under the Groundwater Protection Regulation for Zone 2

because a large swath of this project falls in Zone 2. The big question for this project is impermeable surfaces, which she had requested information from Mr. Huntress and has not yet received so she is waiting for a reply. The second part of potential review is the question of public health. We absolutely have the legal right to review the project under Mass General Law so the question is whether or not the Board would like to proceed with reviewing the project. Ms. Kirk stated that she was going to discuss the Board of Health review under the Groundwater Protection Regulation and Massachusetts General Law with their attorney for the project.

Unfortunately Mr. White isn't here today, so it is probably a wise choice to table the vote on reviewing the project. Mr. Zinno and Mr. Butterick agreed.

- **CWMP Update**

Mr. Zinno stated the general meeting where we're bringing in a broader consistency that will be probably in the first or second week of October, but Meegan and myself, being the Rep. on the CWNP and the engineers can do a zoom meeting next week sometime if that's convenient for all of us just to catch up prior to having the larger meeting.

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **Sovereign – Dave Billo -Lead testing at lighthouse**

Ms. Lancaster stated that we have a proposal for the lighthouse testing and we think we have the money in the budget to pay for it. The Parks Dept. was possibly willing to pay a portion as well. It looks like they will start the testing sometime in October. No matter what the tests results are they won't start remediation until the spring.

- **Air Quality monitoring grant – location of devices**

Ms. Lancaster stated that she has a couple of reasons why I think we're competitive for the grant. One reason is that there are no other monitors on the island. The second is that there is a community called "a population of environmental justice", of which we have two areas in town, one is based on income and the other is based on language and at least one of the monitors will be in that area. The citizen participation is the school has agreed to install one of the monitors there, so they can use it as an educational opportunity for science classes and library activities. There is also citizen participation in terms of locations of interest. She spoke with Barbara at the alpaca farm and she's interested in having one of those monitors installed there as well, which I think will be helpful in light of air quality issues related to the asphalt plant in that area of town. Other locations are the Police Station and lobster hatchery and hopefully one in Hart Haven area. The grant is due October 1st and the devices would probably not be shipped until January. There is a one year commitment.

- **COVID Update**

- **Masking in indoor spaces**

We have had a significant decline in Covid cases but we are also moving into indoor weather season. Kids are back in schools and masks are mandated probably until November. She has had conversation with the other health agents as they are trying to be unified in these decisions. The general sentiment is even though the cases are dropping right now it was probably a wise choice to put off removing the indoor mask in public spaces for just a couple more weeks minimally just to make sure that we really are over the hump because

there is a lot of variables that have been introduced into the equation. The Board agreed to hold off changing the mandate for a few weeks.

- **Other COVID Updates**

Ms. Lancaster stated that the third shots have not been started yet. She met with the hospital yesterday and they are working on it. We also have a national syringe shortage right now.

The vax bus came down and it was a lot of boosters, not as many first doses administered. We didn't get the breakdown from that quite yet. It was one of the best attended vaccine events that the people who run the vax bus have ever had.

- **Propane delivery man - fell in cesspool**

Ms. Lancaster informed the Board about an incident where a propane delivery man fell in a cesspool on Tuckernuck Ave. He was shaken but reasonably ok. We are not sure if it was just open or if the lid broke and he fell in up to his waist. Some of the old cesspools have wooden covers. This property is on town sewer so this cesspool was never filled in. She spoke to the homeowner and they have a family member who is a building inspector who will get in there and figure out what is going on. They will have to pump and fill in.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENT(S): YMCA Presentation/Slideshow;