

## Town of Stow Board of Health

Minutes of the March 10, 2022 Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health members present: Mary McDowell, Chair, Marcia Rising, Merrily Evdokimoff  
Health Agent: Jim Garreffi

Mary McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The meeting was held via zoom.

### **Mass DEP Presentation on PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)- Mary-Jude Pigsley-Regional Director**

Mary Jude Pigsley introduced Paul Vigeant from Mass DEP. Together they have been working with the town of Stow on PFAS testing for about three years now. Mary Jude applauds the Town for stepping up and working with them.

All public water supply wells have been tested and are complete in Stow. Mary Jude showed a map of all the areas that have been tested and a summary of all 265 private well samples that they have results for. Only 19 of the samples are from the private well sampling program with UMass. The color-coding chart was explained; green-non detect, yellow-below the drinking water standard of 20 ppt, red-above the drinking water standard of 20 ppt, and the added level; magenta for above 90 ppt. Detected levels over 90 ppt is considered an imminent health hazard to all people. The drinking water standard was set at 20 ppt because it protects the most sensitive people (pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, immune compromised people. 16 private wells in Stow are at the imminent hazard level.

DEP started a pilot program before the drinking water standards were set. The Hale and Center schools signed up for testing along with 23 residents in Stow and the schools tested over 20 ppt. They were up and running at this point and the center of town was the beginning of the program as part of a public water system testing. Mass DEP started sampling 103 private wells in the center of Town, and it was suspect that the source was the old fire station. The 5 public water systems and 103 private wells were sampled. The town took over responsibility as a PRP(Potentially Responsible Party) at this point and sampled another 79 private wells. On the maps the RTN tracking numbers are shown and all the results are posted on the MA DEP searchable database.

Mary Jude said at this same time the public water supply in Hudson's largest producing well was found to have PFAS over 70 ppt, along with the Department of Fire Services and Precision Coating in Hudson they found a significant amount of contamination that caused the town's well to be closed. As part of the investigation, DEP required Precision Coating to test White Pond. The Department of Fire Services also did some testing. Surface water testing on White Pond and

twelve private wells were tested and the results determined that the Commonwealth needed to develop a clean-up plan. Since then, then there has been 442 tons of contaminated sludge removed.

Mary Jude Pigsley continued with updates on other areas of Town.

Gleasondale Mill - Public water supply well was sampled for free and tested over 20 ppt. 20 private wells were sampled by the PRP (Potentially Responsible Party), all in the yellow and red levels. The PRP has stated they are financially unable to continue sampling. DEP will do additional sampling in 500-foot circles and continue the investigation if the PRP is unable.

Bose – a public water supply well, they had a detection, DEP has asked them to start investigations and will test more private wells in the area. Paul Vigeant added that Bose tested a few private wells across the street from their facility. The levels were low. DEP will meet with them next week to discuss further testing.

In between Gleasondale and up to the Hudson line -tested some surface water samples and some private well samples, but no obviously identifiable source( PRP). Mass DEP is working to determine the source.

Lastly the private well program with UMass- not a lot of people signing up for this testing. If you are a private well owner, you are responsible for treatment in response to the detection. DEP will step in only if it is over 90 ppt and an imminent hazard. There have been 16 imminent hazards in the Town of Stow so far and the Commonwealth will step in and help.

M. Evdokimoff asked what happens when the PRP does not provide bottled water. Mary Jude stated they call and work very hard with the party to follow up on the situation.

M. McDowell asked, if you have a detection over 90ppt are you considered a 21E site. Mary Jude Pigsley said legally yes, but if you have a level over 20ppt it is reportable, but you have that information and what you do with it is up to you.

Mary Jude said some towns have a private well ordinance and in certain parts of town they require PFAS testing and private well testing at time of sale.

Denise Dembkoski, Town Administrator, stated she has received many calls from the Gleasondale area residents frustrated with lack of communication and lack of water, and that the LSP told them they are no longer working on that area. She is glad to hear that DEP is stepping in and taking over continuing the testing.

Some residents have asked if they test high what do they do? Do they notify their neighbors?

Mary Jude said there is no mechanism for sharing their information other than this way. The homeowners are told their testing is anonymized, but the information is provided to the Board of Health to be kept on file, with map and parcels.

Denise Dembkoski said some residents have regretted signing up because once they know what they have, who will help them if they have high levels and what will be covered for treatment. Mary Jude said all that is provided through the UMass program is the testing. It is expensive to put in treatment. The free testing that would cost 700 will put them in a position to have to decide to put in treatment.

Question from resident in the chat in the Gleasondale area-saw a letter from MADEP that they are taking over and making things happen. Mary Jude said they are working on signing with their contractor to include the follow up sampling and more homes tested.

Laurel Cohen - Gleasondale Road- said all the levels in the Gleasondale area are between 20 and 90, no one over 90 ppt will they still provide additional testing? Mary Jude said if there is no PRP the State will only act if it is an imminent hazard, but there is a PRP in this case. The PRP must prove that they are out of money, and once that is determined DEP will do the work that the PRP should be doing, but there is a real incentive for them to continue the work as DEP can cost recover up to three times.

Griffin Tighe, Chief of Staff for State Representative Kate Hogan's office said if anyone has any questions, for the PFAS task force, they want everyone to know that they are aware of all of this, and it will be a part of their task force recommendations. If any members of the public or Board members have questions, please reach out to Kate Hogan's office.

Marcia Rising said she would hope when the task force is gathering information, that part of the process would involve low interest loans. Griffin said they have heard this from Town Administrators and others, and they are aware and their hope the questions are addressed.

Mary McDowell asked if the task force or DEP plans any follow up studies on health issues. Griffin said one component that was studied, and they hope to be in their report, the additional educational piece they still do not have enough research yet, but have a lot of focus in this state that provide updates on a regular basis. Mary Jude said EPA is very involved in PFAS and they will have a national maximum contaminant level for drinking water standards. All this information will be coming.

Mary McDowell thanked Mary Jude, Paul, and Griffin for coming to the meeting with this information and look forward to having them all back for further discussions.

**5:45 PM- Appointment- 80 Apple Blossom Way-** Discussion on septic files and proposed future project. - No show.

## **Agent Report**

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Covid Updates- Jim Garreffi said one current concern, is there is a lot more home testing being done and less reporting to the State. Some testing sites have closed. Kids are provided test kits from schools to take home.

Schools are doing symptomatic testing. Family clusters still account for the largest number of cases.

Numbers last week 8 cases, this week 7 cases. Number of cases they are seeing in the district per town are 5-15 currently, much less than prior months when they were in the 300 range.

Minutes review- Merrily Evdokimoff made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with two minor edits. M. Rising seconded the motion. All in favor. Minutes approved.

#### Member Updates

M. Evdokimoff spoke with JP Benoit, Fire Chief. He plans to reconvene the LEPC. M. Evdokimoff will meet with him in the future to discuss emergency preparedness.

#### **6:00 PM-Appointment**

Stephanie Lopilato- Review Body Art Regulations and Permanent Make-Up

Stephanie requested to come before the Board to discuss needed updates to the regulations and questions she has about permits and requirements. She is training now to achieve her licensing for providing permanent makeup to her clientele.

She has provided copies of area towns regulations and policies and the Boston regulations where she is training.

One item she felt was missing in the information was the license requirement. Each town can have their own regulations, and some towns require a license, but who issues that license.

Jim Garreffi said there is a practitioner permit and an establishment permit. The model regulations that Stow put together in 2006 were taken from the MHOA Regulations. ( Mass Health Officers Association).

Practitioners' licenses are for good two years. Establishment license most likely would be annually, but to anyone's knowledge there has never been an establishment in town prior to this.

Stephanie asked if there was a form to fill out. M. Rising said that an application would need to be drafted.

M. McDowell would like to go through the regulations prior to the next meeting and if time allows review them at the April meeting.

A working meeting to review the Body Art Regulations and Tobacco Regs will be set up in two weeks on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

## **Office Business**

Rabies Clinic is scheduled for April 7 from 6:00-7:30 PM

C. Colosi asked the Board to look at drafting a new application for dumpster permits. She would like to incorporate the form to include dumpster management and revisit the permit and fee schedule. This will be addressed at a future working meeting.

Correspondence was reviewed no comments or questions

## **Review Final Draft of Well Regulations**

M. Rising said she would like to add a requirement for PFAS testing for new wells.

J. Garreffi said one of the questions he would like to clarify for the PFAS policy, would homes that tested in the green category or undetected for PFAS, be required to test at time of sale if they are in the area of concern, or just a recommendation to test at time of sale.

This policy and a current copy of the well regulations once finalized will be sent to realtors and well drillers. J. Garreffi said the realtors would be required to disclose this information.

The final copy of well regulations notice will be published in the newspaper.

Question from resident- once their POET(point of entry treatment) system is installed and they have tested within the guidelines are they still on the list that will require testing. J. Garreffi said that if they find anything that requires treatment and the notice is on the deed, but that is only for new construction. If you have a treatment system, it is up to the homeowner to make sure the water is safe to drink.

M. Rising motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. M. Evdokimoff seconded the motion.

Next working meeting on March 30, 2022, at 4:00 PM

Next regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting scheduled April 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM

