

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2023  
Zoom Meeting

Present on Zoom:

Members: Mary McDowell, Chair, Marcia Rising, Merrily Evdokimoff

Nancy Rihan-Porter, Associate Member

Jim Garreffo, Agent

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and noted that the meeting is being recorded. Participants via Zoom are to use the "hands up" function for Public Comment, which is limited to items not on the agenda. Anyone speaking during Public Comment should state their name and address.

### **Appointments Hearings**

**5:10 PM- 103 North Shore Drive- Innovative Septic Design- Proposed Septic Design**

Hearing moved to November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow more time for abutter notification.

### **Discussion Items**

**Community Health Equity Survey-** M. McDowell said data shows that Stow has less than 5 participants. She would like to see more promotion as the deadline is November 1. It is very important for Stow to be a part of this important survey. It is up on the town website, Facebook announcements and email subscriber list.

N. Porter said this data will be used for community health assessment for next year. The survey can be taken by anyone 14 and up. Discussion on how to get the word out in the community and schools.

**Well Regulations-** Public comment session is still open until the end of October. M. McDowell has not been able to merge the two documents to redline the information and will work on that for the next meeting.

**Keeping of Horses Regulations-** Board members reviewed the original document and minutes from the planning sessions for the regulations in 2006. M. Rising asked if Nashoba has any other Towns that have horse regulations. J. Garreffo said not many do, but some have manure management. M. Rising stated that was the driving force behind the decision for the regulations. Horses were appearing and there was no manure management, the location of the horses/manure to wells and septic. Some lots were very small and had two or more horses.

M. Evdokimoff- from a public health issue you need regulations to enforce this management. J. Garreffo said having regulations helps especially on small lots or subdivisions.

M. Evdokimoff said she feels the question here is the zoning bylaw section of the requirements for a Stable. The Zoning Bylaw states a special permit is needed for parcels of less than 5 acres. The Keeping of Horses Regulations does not state that 5 acres is needed. C. Colosi asked what the definition of a Stable is in the Zoning Bylaw.

J. Garreffi said they are coming from a zoning perspective; the Board of Health is coming from a public health perspective.

Discussion continued on various concerns- for properties that sell, if the license transfer, should a letter be sent to the new owner to provide this information and show any changes, manure vendor, location, property line setbacks, etc.

M. Evdokimoff feels they should apply for a new license within the 3-6 months of purchase. Should the license be continued as an existing or a new stable. M. Rising suggested if the property is changing hands they need to submit for a new license with a new plan.

M. McDowell suggested removing the line that says they will automatically get the license, but a new application should be submitted for review. M. McDowell said if not renewed within 45 days it won't be a licensed stable anymore.

N. Porter suggested adding specific language of what will happen if they do not renew within 45 days.

M. Rising suggested if not renewed in 45 days it will be terminated and they will need to re-apply for a new license.

M. McDowell suggested changing the public fee to all \$25.00 fee. M. McDowell will check the Mass Health Boards, legal handbook.

J. Garreffi said if they are building a new barn or stable, they will start with the Building Department and Zoning.

M. McDowell will inquire with the Zoning assistant on the clarification definition of stable and section 3.2.3.8 for the next meeting.

### **Board Member Updates**

M. Evdokimoff talked with the Fire Chief regarding the MRC no longer being active. He referred her to the lieutenant to discuss the set up of any sheltering this winter.

M. McDowell attended the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Executive meeting. M. McDowell is very impressed with the amount of work that the Agents and Nurses do, they are very valuable to our Board of Health.

N. Porter had a conversation with Joanne Belanger from Lexington MRC, she reached out to inquire about the MRC and the status of Stow MRC. M. Evdokimoff said a formal notice should be sent.

### **Office Business**

C. Colosi has scheduled the set up at the Community Center for October 14, 2023. The Wi-Fi and other items will be ready to go. M. McDowell and M. Rising will attend.

Reuse your Recyclable day is coming up in Ayer, it is posted on the website. The Community Health Equity Survey has also been added to the website to ask for participation.

### **Health Agent Report**

No specific updates regarding Stow. Will continue discussion of the Private Well Regulations later in the meeting.

Flu Clinics have started in the Nashoba district, and the numbers seem to be what was expected from previous years.

### **Meeting Minutes**

September meeting minutes were reviewed, edits will be added to the final draft for approval.

July, August, and the working meeting in September still need approval. All have been reviewed, no comments or changes needed.

M. Evdokimoff made a motion to approve the July, August and September working meeting minutes along with the September meeting; M. Rising seconded the motion, all members in favor.

### **Correspondence**

**PFAS Lake Boon Presentation** -M. Evdokimoff said the study showed impact on Lake Boon from the PFAS at the Fire Academy. What effect will this have on the wells around the Lake? Over time depending on the aquifer and flow, could the levels of PFAS raise? M. Evdokimoff asked if they were doing remediation of the Lake and how this could impact the changes in water testing on wells. J. Garreffi said GZA is still doing testing and showing groundwater models and figuring out the pattern and flow. M. Evdokimoff asked if what they know so far is limited, will this change how the time frame on well testing for their regulations.

J. Garreffi said new wells and transfer of property testing will be required, but residents that test on their own should use a state certified lab.

The State has not formally changed the PFAS acceptable levels. N. Porter will inquire with DEP on when that may happen.

M. Westphal, resident added public comment said he heard from State Health officials that EPA wants to roll out the new levels by the end of this year. He provided the slides for the Lake Boon Presentation.

### **Adjournment**

*At 7:30 PM. Board member, M Rising moved to adjourn. Board member, M. Evdokimoff, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Next scheduled Board of Health meeting is November 9, 2023, at 5:00 PM