

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023
Zoom Meeting

Present on Zoom: Mary McDowell, Chair, Marcia Rising, Merrily Evdokimoff

Nancy Rihan-Porter, Associate Member

Agent: J. Garreffi

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 5 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

5:15 PM- Lot 2 Harvard Road-Foresite Engineering- Septic Permit Extension

S. Hayes from Foresite Engineering has requested an extension for a septic permit for a one-year extension due to delays in meetings with other boards. They expect to be building shortly. The original permit expires November 10, 2023.

J. Garreffi stated that Title 5 allows the Board to extend permits for one year.

M. Rising asked about the size of the lot. S. Hayes said it is an acre and is a grandfathered non-conforming lot. A special permit has been granted.

M. Evdokimoff motioned to extend the permit for Lot 2 Harvard Road for one year, November 10, 2024. M. Rising seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor. The extension passes.

5:30 PM- 3 Birch Hill Road- Capstone Engineering

D. Schofield said this is a very difficult site, the existing system is full of roots and despite the roots it is very close to the groundwater table. He has been working on designing a new system after soil testing. The perc rate is 87 minutes per inch.

J. Garreffi said it is a challenging site with a high perc rate. A Presby system may not work for such a high perc rate, even though it is the right system for a sloped site. The design he has does not match up with how a Presby would be designed. The variances will be for reduction in size of leach field, and groundwater offset, but further review will be needed.

M. McDowell said this should be moved to the December meeting. J. Garreffi asked if the system was functioning. D. Schofield said the system is functioning in its current use. No sign of breakout.

D. Schofield said this system should not be put in in the wintertime. J. Garreffi agreed.

M. McDowell said this will be added to the December meeting for review.

Discussion Items

Private Well Regulations – public comment period is closed as of the end of October.

M. McDowell asked if there was any update to the PFAS.

N. Porter said someone specifically asked this question at the Department of Environmental Conference in October. The answer was very soon, possibly by the beginning of the new year.

M. McDowell said everything else was done on the regulation changes except for the PFAS testing.

J. Garreffi said the way the regulations are written refers to the State, so it is a matter of public education. The sample document from Townsend could be used and would be in the file with the

water testing. J. Garreffo suggested Counsel review. M. McDowell would like to merge the two documents and send them to counsel for review. The plan is to be ready for Spring, after some public education period.

Keeping of Horses Regulations

The definition of a Stable in the Zoning Bylaw was discussed as well as Mass General Law requiring towns over 5,000 to have Stable Regulations. M. Slagle email interpretation of the Zoning Bylaw was emailed to the Board members for review.

M. McDowell stated the next step is to draft up the regulation with changes, they then need to be reviewed by the state. J. Garreffo suggested holding a public hearing even though it is not required. M. Evdokimoff offered to review the state documents and Stable Regulations before the next meeting.

Board Member Updates

M. McDowell – Community Health Equity Survey promoted at the Flu Clinic, the responses for Stow went from 3 to 70 participants. J. Garreffo said as of the 23rd of October totals were 73.

M. McDowell updated the Board of the Well Adult Clinic- the clinic is now being held without appointments.

N. Porter talked with someone about organizing a coat drive. M. McDowell will send out a draft plan to disseminate to the Board.

M. Evdokimoff – MRC has disbanded, and she has contacted the Fire Department regarding the concern of setting up any shelter during the winter. She is waiting for a response. M. Evdokimoff has contacted the regional director to inform them of the status of Stow.

Office Business

C. Colosi said the lightbulb mercury shed has been emptied by NLR, the program has ended, and all items will now be disposed of at Devens Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. The shed is no longer needed by the Board of Health.

A textile bin has been added for disposal for town residents at the Community Center. It is managed by the Council on Aging.

There were 125 vaccinated at the Flu Clinic on October 14, 2023.

C. Colosi ordered 700 more Covid test kits from the State. They are being distributed by the Board of Health, Library, and Town Building.

People can order free tests from the government also and that information is up on the website.

Health Agent Report

Flu Clinic – Stow's clinic was well attended. Nashoba Board of Health paired up with a local pharmacy and they provided the Covid vaccine.

Meeting Minutes

M. Rising moved to accept the meeting minutes of the October 2023 meeting as drafted. M. Evdokimoff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed with no comments or questions.

M. Rising reviewed the GZA -Lake Boon report and would like to understand more about the location.
M. Evdokimoff suggested a representative come to a future meeting.
J. Garreffi will review and put some information together.

Adjournment

At 6:15 PM, Board member M. Evdokimoff motioned to adjourn. Board member M. Rising seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next Board of Health meeting was moved from December 14 to December 7th. 2023.