**Board of Health**

**Virtual Meeting**

**November 15, 2023**

**7:00 PM** Virtual meeting called to order by Mena Mesiha. Roll call vote: Hope Klassman –Aye;

Chuck Levine- Aye; Signe Peterson Flieger- Aye; Hillary Johnson- Aye; Mena Mesiha – Aye.

Others Present – Staff: Leandra McLean, Linda Callan, Kevin Davis. Others present, Victor Auerbach.

Town project updates provided by Kevin Davis. There is a memo on file in the office outlining on-going projects within the Town.

**40B Edgehill Road – 40 B Development**

* Contractor is meeting in December with ZBA.
* Davis has reviewed plans.
* There is still no information with regards to septic

**Birch Hill Subdivision**

* The water main has been installed.
* Developer is continuing with clearing the lot.
* There is on-going activity on the site including the moving of large boulders.
* The Developer has not yet applied to the BOH for permits.
* Currently, plans only show only a basic layout of roads.
* Not sure when the Developer will file any plans.

**Sharon Gallery**

* Roads are being widened.
* Grading and paving of the roadway is being done this week and next.
* Grading work is to increase traffic capacity in the area.
* Concern – Historical Society noticed wall of cemetery was close to work. Road work will be redesigned to stay away from impacting the cemetery.
* Traffic lights will be at Gavins Pond Road; at Old Post Road; at the Northbound ramp and at the Southbound ramp. All four lights will be set up to provide and allow for an even traffic flow.

**Cumberland Farms**

* There have been some minor issues. Davis is not looking for a decision from the Board at this time.
* Cumberland Farms has been compliant with required repairs; Davis will involve Board if any issues arise.
* Septic system has failed (partial).
* The existing I/A system is not being maintained.
* The existing septic system on site is small. The calculation for existing septic system is for a gas station and retail area was sized for normal use; however, the location of this Cumberland Farms sees a lot of use of the public restrooms (nearby school). The degradation of the existing septic system is moving along quickly.
* Cumberland Farms has agreed to enlarge/replace the existing septic system in the Spring.
* The bathrooms are now closed; a cleaning company has sanitized the bathrooms.
* Davis will work with Cumberland Farms and will discuss the monitoring fee associated with an I/A system.

Cape Club will have a treatment plant; Audubon Preserve has two more lots going in. When Davis receives more information, he will provide an update to the Board.

**Betterment Loan** – Davis explained that many town residents are not aware this program exists. He will be working with the Communication specialist to begin a campaign to get the word out. There is plenty of funding available and would like to see it being used by Town residents.

**Regulation update and review**

McLean informed Board members that Local Public Health is trying to regionalize to provide equal and uniform services to all Health Departments in the state. This is an on-going process and has begun with local partnerships through the Public Health Excellence grant.

**Pool regulations.** The existing pool regulations tie into 105 CMR 435.000, Minimum Standards for Swimming Pools, State Sanitary Code, Chapter V. There are some aspects of this regulation that we have not utilized. For the upcoming pool season, the Health Department will be working with our pool inspector to increase the number of pool inspections performed. (In the past only inspection has been performed, prior to the pool opening for the season.) This past spring/summer an increase in inspections was put in place and the Health Department will continue to work on this, with a recommendation of at least 2 to 3 inspections for each permitted semi-public pool.

McLean has been reviewing other states swimming pool regulations and will be requiring the pool operators to have bacterial analysis performed prior to a pool opening. This is already within 105 CMR 435.28- so will not need a vote from the BOH. Our pool inspector is in favor of this, and this condition will be included in the permitting process. The tests required do not look to be too expensive to cause undue burden on the pool operators.

Variances: The Department has been reviewing variances granted, specifically those to pool associations looking for a waiver of lifeguards. Moving forward, these need to be submitted to DPH for a review (within 30 days) under 105 CMR 435.46. Additional criteria will be looked at as well, including past years average daily bathing load, injury reports, etc… The purpose of establishing such criteria in granting of variances to provide a level of safety in the operation of pools within the Town.

**Animal Regulations:** These have been updated and a draft has been submitted to the Animal Control Officer for review. Will be coming in front of the board for discussion within the next month or two.

**Tobacco Regulations:**  These have also been updated and Callan is looking for a subcommittee to review prior to bringing them in front of the full board for discussion and vote. Peterson-Flieger and Johnson have agreed to work with Callan to review, edit and bring to the Board.

**Offal permits.** Septic hauler day took place last week for truck inspections. The permitting process has begun, and Auerbach and Callan have been working on.

**Update on new residents to Sharon**

There are 15 families residing at EconoLodge. These families are primarily from Haiti, with some from South America. Most speak Creole and some speak Spanish. Beginning December 15, all rooms at the Best Western have been reserved by the State. Currently, we are unable to confirm anything, though we believe that the rooms are being reserved for approximately 90 days. The families at EconoLodge may be moved over to Best Western. Information is flowing to Turkington from the State, and DPH to the Health Department and DESE to the public

schools. Unfortunately, it seems that there is no coordination or communication at the State level. Mr. Patel from EconoLodge has been great to work with. Management at Best Western, not so much at this point. The DPH liaison has been moved back to her position within DPH and a new Liaison is just now getting up to speed. It is overwhelming with the number of folks needing assistance and the language barrier.

A task group has been organized consisting of town residents, clergy, schools, police, fire, etc….. Different tasks are being divided up between the various groups. Meals are being provided by the State, with the addition of snacks and water from outside organizations. Additionally, various houses of worship have adopted families to assist as needed. Clothing, diapers, toiletries etc……. are being collected and dropped off. The National Guard provides its services from noon to 6pm. The Chinese Church of Boston Southwest has offered up some space for classes in English as a second language. Representative Ted Philips, Chief Coffey and Turkington are working on plans to get folks from the EconoLodge across Route 1.

The Health Department has:

* Supplied emergency type supplies including: Tylenol, Band aids, Cough Medicine, etc…
* Provided a blood pressure clinic this past Tuesday. Folks now have MassHealth, but do not have access to getting to a clinic.
* Have reached out to the Mansfield Public Health and Foxboro Public Health Nurses for shelter management practices that are working
* Meets via zoom, every other week, with DPH
* Is providing a flu and covid clinic this upcoming Friday

The Shared Services Health Inspector is fluent in Creole and has agreed to provide translation services. He also knows a bit of Spanish and has been a huge help.

The communication specialist is posting this information online to provide town residents with updates on what is happening.

**Health Department update**

We have completed our Flu and Covid clinics. Overall, vaccinations are down from previous years. There has been a significant decrease in vaccinations of those between the ages of 13- 18 due to both the Middle School and High School not holding clinics for their students.

The Pilot program with not opening the Community Center Beach to swimming this past summer has been a success. McLean met with Rec Advisory and all agreed the plan to not open was good plan and that Memorial Beach had no problems with handling the overflow. Lake Management is still reviewing the lake sampling data. They have received a grant to investigate possibilities as to why the Ecoli levels are high at the Community Center Beach. Camp Wonderland had no significant issues with their swimming beach.

McLean reminded Board members that Town meeting is November 30th.

The Health Department has been looking at Public Health Excellence standards. A fact sheet has been sent out. Working with our partners to ensure that quality public health services are provided across all member towns. Included are educational requirements for professional employees within the Health Department.

Mass DPH inspection. Unfortunately, this did not go as well as expected. There have been some updates on the State vaccine side, most likely from pressure from the CDC.

The operating procedures which were good last year are no longer OK this year. The outlet for the freezer and refrigerator is no longer acceptable and needs to be updated. Transport of vaccines to clinics have been changed with lots of mandates. McLean is working with Dr. Barnett who has been very helpful.

McLean will be reviewing the final report from the 3-hour inspection and editing our protocols as necessary.

**FY 24 Budget update/ looking ahead to FY 25**

Will be looking for increase funds for lake testing. Need increase for drug testing.

**Historical minutes review and approval**

**Motion:** To approve all minutes dated prior to 2023

Peterson-Flieger, Klassman

Klassman –Aye; Levine- Aye; Peterson Flieger- Aye; Johnson- Abstains; Mesiha – Aye

**Vote:** 4-1-0 (Motion Passes)

**Motion:** To approve 2023 minutes received for review

Johnson, Peterson-Flieger

Klassman –Aye; Levine- Aye; Peterson Flieger- Aye; Johnson- Aye; Mesiha – Aye

Potential Meeting Dates for 2024. Meetings usually are held on the third Wednesday of the month. McLean will provide 2024 dates at the December meeting.

**Motion:**  To adjourn meeting

Klassman, Johnson

Klassman –Aye; Levine- Aye; Peterson Flieger- Aye; Johnson- Aye; Mesiha – Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm