

Board of Health Meeting November 16, 2016

Sharon Community Center, Conference Room

7:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Ken Zoller, Chuck Levine, Luba Raynus, Beverly Anderson, Jim Andrews. Absent: Jay Schwab

Public: Bill Self, Linda Berger, Gary Bluestein, Richard Padula, Damen Lanzillo, John Glossa, Cheryl Schnitzer, Kathi Mirza

The meeting began at 7:00 pm in the Sharon Community Center Conference Room.

Minutes of the past two meetings were reviewed. The September 14, 2016 minutes were reviewed and approved without comment. Levine moved to accept the minutes, Zoller seconded, all voted in favor with Raynus abstaining as she was not present at the September meeting.

Minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Raynus asked that the next to last sentence in the third paragraph be modified should be modified to say "After some discussion, led by Zoller, the plan...". A correction to the first sentence to the address was also noted. Raynus moved to approve the minutes with changes; Levine seconded, all voted in favor of approval, with the exception of Welch who abstained.

The Board of Health turned to a discussion of lake water testing issues. Linda Berger, Director of the Sharon Recreation Department, and Gary Bluestein, Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee also joined the discussion. The Board first considered a quote from G&L Laboratories, which has carried out testing on Lake Massapoag beach samples for several years. Berger explained that the Health and Recreation Departments had agreed that to ensure uniform sampling procedures, they would prefer to engage a professional laboratory to gather water samples. Anderson noted that part of the quote described sampling for non-swimming areas, e.g., near the landfill, Sucker Brook, etc., for which the laboratory sampling would not be necessary. Zoller then reviewed the data from the summer of 2016 for sampling at three Lake Massapoag sites, and noted that all of the several samples that violated State standards for recreational water returned to low bacterial testing as of the next day's sample. Based on this data he suggested that the Board reconsider its vote of 2016, requiring immediate closing of a beach upon the finding of a sample violating bacterial standards. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, however, will allow towns with sampling programs that have not shown significant and ongoing levels of contamination at a swimming area to keep a beach open while a second confirmatory sample is taken. Only upon finding of a violative sample would the town need to keep the beach closed. In 2015, the Board of Health in Sharon voted to ensure closure of a beach immediately following a violative sample. Raynus indicated she would be willing to vote for the option of keeping a beach open following a high bacterial reading, but noted she would want a public notice posted by Recreation and

Health that a given sample was high. Levine moved to allow a retest of a beach if a sample came back exceeding state standards, and to keep the beach open, and to then close the beach if the second sample results also violated bacterial standards. Welch seconded the motion. Raynus asked for clarification, specifically that signage would be posted noting high bacterial levels were found at the beach. All voted in favor of the change to the beach closure procedures and to the public notice requirement.

Berger requested that the bacterial testing be changed from Wednesday to another day for better coordination of beach testing. Anderson supported the request noting that staff are often unavailable on Friday afternoons, and the test results are often not reported until late afternoon. She noted that no problems had occurred however during the past two seasons, and suggested Tuesday as an option. She noted that the State does not want towns to “cherry pick” sampling days, and asked that Sharon select a specific day for consistency. Levine motioned to test the beaches on Tuesdays; Raynus seconded, all voted in favor.

A hearing regarding the installation of a proposed septic system at 62 South Main Street was held. Bill Self represented the owner for the site. The site has been the subject of regulatory actions in 2016 due to violations of the housing code, 105 CMR 410.00, and of Title Five, 310 CMR 15.000. Mr. Self explained the request for variances for the proposed septic system, and how the lot limitations in a public parking area prevented full compliance with the regulations for wastewater systems. Andrews confirmed this conclusion. Mr. Self requested local upgrade relief waiver requests related specifically to 310 CMR 15.405(1)(a); 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b); and 310 CMR 15.405 (1)(c). He also requested variances related to Article 7, i.e., 7.17(B) “Minimum Distances”. After discussion of the requests, Raynus moved to grant relief under Title 5 for the design for a new septic system at 62 South Main Street; Levine seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The Board then heard from John Glossa of Glossa Engineering regarding proposed plans for a septic system to be installed at 242 Mansfield Street in Sharon. The system was designed to support proposed renovations at the address involving the addition of 3 bedrooms and a garage at the site. The variances requests were: 300-7.7A: Allow the system to be installed within a Zone II wellhead protection area to have less than 5 feet of naturally occurring soil between the high ground water elevation and the bottom of the leaching facility; and, 300-7.7B: Allow the system for new construction to be mounded above the existing topography in order to achieve separation to groundwater. The Board considered the proposed design recognizing the specific requirements for systems installed for new construction. Andrews confirmed the renovations would constitute new construction under Article 7. Glossa noted that if the mounded system proposed was not acceptable under Article 7, he would propose a system with only 4 feet between the groundwater and soil absorption system, which would also require a variance. After discussion with the designer and owners about the system, the Board voted against the proposed system, based in part on prior rulings against the installation of mounded systems for new construction. Raynus moved to deny the requested variances, Welch seconded, all voted in favor of the denial.

The Board then considered plans submitted for the Diamond subdivisions. No concerns were registered by the Board. Anderson was asked to draft a letter to the Planning Board noting that the Board of Health had no concerns to note.

The Board then heard a presentation from the Sustainable Sharon Coalition Trash Initiative. Sharon Schnitzer, a resident of Sharon provided information on reducing trash collection levels and improving recycling participation for Sharon residents. Kathy Merz, also a Sharon resident and employee of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also provided supporting information for adoption of new rules for residential trash collection. Merz noted as well that “tipping fees” for trash collections were projected to increase over the next ten years, while their proposed program would reduce local trash levels and costs significantly. The Board thanked the representatives for the presentation. Merz noted that the DEP had grants to support the program described.

The Board reviewed the initial proposed budget submitted by Anderson. Three accounts designated “fixed and uncontrollable” were discussed. Anderson described several proposed changes to the budget, including the possible increase in hours or level of one staff position, noting that the proposed budget was well within the 2% increase limit for the town. The Board asked for more information on some items to be presented at the December meeting. Anderson also asked the Board to consider an increase in the hourly rate for contract nurses who assist at flu clinics and fill in for Sheila Miller. After discussing the limited number of hours involved, reviewing data related to what other towns pay contract nurses, and recognizing the many years of service to the town provided by these nurses, Welch moved to allow an increase of \$6 in the hourly rate for each contract nurse, for a total of \$30 per hour. Raynus seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Zoller informed the Board that the Town Administrator had agreed to sign off on the Health Department payroll on a weekly basis. Raynus moved to allow the Town Administrator to sign off on the payroll, with the provision that a copy of the spreadsheet be sent to the Board of Health Chair. Welch seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Anderson reviewed the current workplan submitted to the Cambridge Health Alliance, the sponsoring organization for the Region 4A/4B Public Health Emergency Preparedness Region, to support funding of \$5,000 given to the Health Department. The Board considered the addition of the purchase of “overlay” signs for the emergency dispensing site and related emergency responses. Anderson noted the need for inventory of supplies. The Board asked Anderson to inquire of the Emergence Director, Fire Chief Jim Wright, if he recommended any additional supplies, trainings, or equipment should be purchased. Anderson noted that all purchases needed to comply with the state and federal requirements for use of these funds.

Anderson was asked to invite Sarah McColgan from the Massachusetts Health Officers Association Tobacco Control Program and colleagues to present at the next Board of Health meeting in December.

Board meetings were set for December 15th, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and January 18th, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Chuck Levine will act as the new Chair of the Board of Health for the next three months.

Raynus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Welch seconded, all voted in favor.