

Board of Health Meeting

April 14, 2015, 7:00 pm

Sharon Community Center

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Board of Health: Chuck Levine, Chair; Ed Welch; Luba Raynus; Ken Zoller; Jay Schwab

Health Department: Beverly Anderson

DPW: Jim Andrews

The meeting began at 7:10 pm. Chuck Levine opened the meeting.

Eric Dias, PE from Tunis& Dias gave a presentation on a proposed subdivision at 635 Old Post Road, Sharon. Dias gave a review of a history of the site included the initial approval of a proposal for 66 garden-style units which the Zoning Board of Appeals(ZBA) approved in 2005. A second plan had been proposed involving a lesser number of separate units, but that plan was withdrawn. The current proposal is consistent with the original 2005 proposal for 66 units. Dias indicated that the ZBA recently approved the project, which will be built consistent with the 40B statute to include 20-25% affordable housing units. The ZBA approved the project noting that the proposed 9900 gal/day Title V compliant wastewater system will not be subject to Board of Health Article 7 regulations related to septic systems. Dias noted the system usage was calculated based on a 150 gal/day/unit basis. Jim Andrews confirmed that the septic system does not require approval of the Board of Health, and that the Article 7 was waived based on the 40b requirement for "reasonable relief" from local requirements. Several questions were posed by the Board of Health as to the design of the proposed development, the number of low-income residents, age-restriction requirements, deed restrictions, and other issues. Dias noted that the main differences in the wastewater system plan based on Article 7 requirements related to the setbacks. Jay Schwab asked if there might be any issues with the proposed system and Dias noted that the main concern would be mechanical issues with the processing system. He noted there would be an operation and maintenance document required for the condominium association. Ed Welch requested proof of age restriction for the residences; Dias noted that the condominium document stated that requirements, but Welch asked to see the restriction in writing. Chuck Levine noted that the Board of Health did not need to vote on the project. Jim Andrews spoke to Dias asking for involvement in the inspection of the system. Dias also noted that water for the development would come from a Route 1 line.

Minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting were approved with minor typographical edits and clarification of language in the 12th paragraph related to reporting of the number of animal enclosure inspections and an annual meeting of the Board of Health with the Animal Inspector. Jay Schwab moved to accept the minutes with revisions; Ken Zoller seconded; all approved.

Chuck Levine asked that the Board members consider the next meeting date of June 17th, and that Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, had asked to be present on that date. Levine decided that the date would not be feasible as Jim Andrews, Health Agent, indicated he would be away on that date. The Board then agreed to a June 23rd meeting, and a July 15th meeting.

The next agenda item focused on fluoride levels in town-supplied water. Jay Schwab gave a brief summary of the current Centers for Disease Control, Health and Human Service Administration (CDC, HHS) guidance for 0.7-1.2 ppm for fluoride. Board members were supplied with documents related to these levels and also EPA documents on allowable limits of 4.0 ppm, and plans of both EPA and CDC/HHS to re-evaluate fluoride levels in drinking water. Schwab noted that fluoride is now available from different sources now, and dental fluorosis in children has become a concern in the dental field. Jay suggested that the Health Department send out a survey to local dentists asking for input on a proposed decrease to the level of fluoride in Sharon water, which is currently at 1 ppm according to Dave Masciarelli in the Water Department. Beverly Anderson noted she had contacted the Office of Oral Health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and that it was in the Board's authority to decrease the level of fluoride in drinking water, and that the existing statute (MGL c. 111, s. 8C) required a public vote only in the case of an increase of fluoride levels in the drinking water. Schwab and Anderson agreed to work on survey questions for dentists in the area and to present results of the survey to the Board.

Anderson went on to address the agenda item related to testing of Lake Massapoag beaches, specifically the town-owned beaches and boat dock area. First, she informed the Board (which had also been informed via email) that MDPH had contacted and indicated that it is likely that the town will be allowed this summer to delay closure of beaches with violating samples until a second violating test sample is recorded. While new MDPH regulations passed in 2014 allowed some towns to delay beach closure until a second sample exceeded bacterial levels specified in regulation, other towns were initially required to close beaches immediately following a violation based on a history of contamination. She noted that there is a list of towns subject to the same ruling, i.e., required to close immediately following a high bacterial level. The Board asked when we would have confirmation that Lake Massapoag beaches would be allowed to delay closure, and Anderson indicated late May. Anderson also noted she would like to propose that the Health Department carry out an environmental (sanitary) survey of the Lake to potentially support more limited testing of the Lake.

Anderson also addressed a second issue related to the Lake. MDPH regulations for beach testing require a single monitoring sample test per week during the swimming season; however, town-owned beaches including Memorial Beach, Community Beach and the boat dock area are routinely tested twice weekly.

Amanda Levasseur, Recreation Director for Sharon, has requested that her department be relieved of the twice weekly requirement to be consistent with state regulations, and also with the requirements of the camps and other organizations running summer programs on other privately-owned beaches around the Lake. She had noted that the costs are all absorbed by the Recreation Department budget. Ed Welch asked for the cost of each test and Anderson said that they cost roughly \$30 per test. The total amount for the Recreation Department would be \$180/week, in addition to follow up testing for violating samples when necessary. Jim Andrews provided the Board with a history of the extensive testing done around the Lake years ago, involving weekly testing at 8 or 9 different sites. He also noted problems with geese and dogs, and that measures were taken to address these problems. After some discussion, Jay Schwab suggested that the Board modify the testing requirement for town beaches to 1 sample per week, supported by a second test during the core swimming season. Ed Welch asked for a definition of the high swimming season months. It was decided that the Board needs to look at the beach data that had been sent to them previously in order to make a decision on weekly testing, and whether the Board would support the cost of the second tests. It was also agreed that Greg Meister of the Conservation Commission, who might be helpful in provided details about the Lake, should be invited to the next Board meeting.

The Board then considered an application for use of Region 4A funding to support additional sharps collection boxes to be placed at the Sharon Community Center in restrooms there. The Board asked about adding a request for funding for sharps disposal; Anderson indicated the collection from the new boxes could be included in an existing shipment arrangement with no added cost. Chuck Levine moved to approve the application; Ed Welch seconded; all voted to approve the action.

The Board reviewed a list of trainings that the Board and Health Department staff may wish to attend. Anderson indicated she would forward a copy of an upcoming Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) training to the Board. Zotter asked to have future training notices sent to the Board as well.

The Board then reviewed documents showing activity in the two main revolving accounts, the Health Account and the Septic Account. After some discussion it was agreed that a project-based budget should be developed supported by Board and Department planning efforts. Anderson agreed to work towards this proposal. Levine also asked the Board if a determination might be made as to staff sign-off on warrants. Luba Raynus repeated her concern about staff approvals of the warrants and that a limit of only \$200 be allowed. Anderson noted that perhaps the Board might be more supported of approvals by the Health Department based on better information on spending and improved program planning. Levine discussed the need for the Board members to consider whether their role should be one of a policy/regulatory decision-making body, or whether the Board should continue to scrutinize day to day Department work. Schwab also suggested that perhaps members of Boards from neighboring towns might attend a Sharon BOH meeting. It was agreed that a list of projects and programs the Health Department runs through the year, and overhead costs, should be assembled to support the Board's decision.

The Health Department report was then reviewed.

Schwab moved that the meeting be adjourned; Zoller seconded the motion; all approved.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.