

APPROVED

COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY MAY 23, 2023
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
PLACE: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present:

Dr. Paul Schubert, MD, Chairman
Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Marcia Lewis, PhD, Member

Recording Secretary: Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, REHS/RS

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN

6:00 P.M. Meeting called to order.

Ms. Kirkpatrick introduced the two new Board members, Dr. Paul Schubert, and Marcia Lewis. Dr. Schubert is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Brigham and Women's Hospital and South Shore Hospital and has been in practice for more than 20 years. Dr. Schubert was on the Board of Selectman for 6 years, School Committee for 6 years, and has lived in Cohasset since 1997.

Marcia Lewis is a PhD scientist. Ms. Lewis worked in the diagnostic and biotech industry for over 30 years and is currently a consultant focusing on virology, genomics, and oncology. Ms. Lewis was a case investigator with the Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative and then worked for Cohasset as a Covid Case Investigator. Ms. Lewis has lived in Cohasset for over 30 years.

6:02 P.M. Re-Organization of the Board of Public Health

MOTION BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to nominate Dr. Schubert as Chair.
Dr. Schubert accepted the nomination.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Marcia Lewis-Aye, Dr. Schubert-Aye

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

MOTION BY: Ms. Lewis moved to nominate Elizabeth Kirkpatrick for Vice Chair.
Ms. Kirkpatrick accepted the nomination.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Marcia Lewis-Aye, Dr. Schubert-Aye.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

6:04 P.M. Dr. Schubert asked for a motion to change the agenda order due to information that has come to the attention of the chair. Dr. Schubert asked for a motion to place "topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting" to the current time 6:06 P.M.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to change the agenda order.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

ROLL CALL VOTE: Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Marcia Lewis-Aye, Dr. Schubert-Aye

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

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6:06 P.M. Topics not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Information was brought to Dr. Schubert's attention by an abutter at 84 Jerusalem Road regarding the irrigation well at 110 Jerusalem Road. Attorney Jeff De Lisi on behalf of the residents at 84 Jerusalem Road requests that the Board of Public Health rescind the geothermal well permit (Issued in 2022), permanently disallow all additional drilling; and conduct a hearing to investigate the nuisances at 110 Jerusalem Road. A public hearing was scheduled for June 13, 2023, at 6:00

Public Comment:

Christen & Micah Moreau, the applicants for the proposed irrigation well at 110 Jerusalem Road were under the impression this meeting was to discuss their well application. Ms. Moreau is not sure, what further information was provided to the board that prevents the application from being on the agenda tonight. Ms. Moreau stated they provided all the information required for an irrigation well. Furthermore, how can an abutter make an applicant have a public hearing, can anyone request a public hearing when a resident is doing a project on their home. Ms. Moreau would like to know what the requested hearing will be about and felt this was unorthodox for a well application.

Dr. Schubert informed the Moreau's that the abutter requested a public hearing which must be posted prior to the hearing, this is a Massachusetts General Law. A letter was received this afternoon from the abutter's attorney requesting a public hearing. If a direct abutter has information that is available and would like to discuss it at a public hearing they have a legal right to do so. The hearing will be to discuss the well application.

Matthew Roth, Building Contractor for the Moreau's, is curious what was the purpose of this meeting and asked isn't this a public hearing? Mr. Roth wanted to clarify that the board will advertise the meeting, then we meet again to have the same meeting, and anyone from the public can sit in?

Dr. Schubert confirmed that a public hearing needs to be posted ahead of time and publicly advertised. The well is on the agenda to be discussed but the abutter has legal rights to ask for a public hearing. Dr. Schubert explained at a public hearing you have two discussants. One person requests the public hearing, and the other person the applicant is the one defending their project. The applicant will have to discuss the project in an open meeting.

Ms. Moreau asked just to be clear, are you saying we must come to the meeting with an attorney.

Dr. Schubert said that it is in your purview to hire an attorney, it's up to you.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to postpone the agenda item for 110 Jerusalem Road, Irrigation well until the next Board of Public Health meeting.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Lewis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Marcia Lewis-Aye, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Dr. Schubert- Aye

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

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6:25 P.M. Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday June 13, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

6:29 P.M. Approve Meeting Minutes from May 2, 2023

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 2, 2023.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Lewis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Marcia Lewis-Aye, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Dr. Schubert did not vote due to not attending the May 2nd meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0

6:30 P.M. Public Health Director Report

Ms. Fahey has no new updates.

Ms. Fahey has been sending the Board the following weekly reports:

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending May 26, 2023

- Board of Public Health (BoPH) meeting – received a letter from an attorney representing 84 Jerusalem Road opposing the application for an irrigation well permit among other requests which requires a public hearing. Therefore, the Board did not vote on the request for an irrigation well at 110 Jerusalem Road. A public hearing is scheduled for June 13th.
- DPH Call – DPH provided an update on proposed changes to camp regulations, and State Epidemiologist Dr. Katie Brown gave a presentation on EEE and West Nile Virus. Mosquito testing will begin statewide on June 12th.
- Beach Testing – we received our annual letter from DPH, and beach testing will also begin on June 12th. Cohasset tests three beaches weekly each season: Sandy, Rocky and Bassings. Samples are sent to our state-designated laboratory G & L in Quincy for enterococci analysis.
- Food inspections – Brian Flynn and I inspected Pour, Mobil Mart, Red Lion Tavern and Red Lion Barn, French Memories. Both Red Lion locations required follow up.
- Pool inspection – completed opening pool inspection for Red Lion Inn. While there I reinspected the Tavern and Barn kitchens. Priority items were completed including restoring hot water to Barn prior to an event this weekend.
- The Preserve – Ongoing tenant housing complaint due to squirrels in the ceiling of a unit. Trapping takes place Monday through Friday this week. Will receive a pest control report next week. Additional mitigation measures will then be discussed if trapping and animal removal is successful.
- PHE Grant Local – Submitted a draft FY 2024 Work Plan and budget of \$430,000. In addition to our hired Shared Social Worker Stephanie Saunders and our Shared Public Health Nurse Micayla Bickerton we are proposing contracting with Boston University to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment, buying ipads and field inspectional software, hiring a community resource navigator (outreach worker) and contracting with a tobacco control inspector to do inspections in Cohasset and Scituate (she currently works in Hingham and many other South Shore towns).
- 754 CJC Highway – the BoPH recently approved an upgrade septic plan for a failed system at this location (Mullaney Seafood Plaza). Several variances had to be granted as the site is extremely limited due to shallow bedrock in the front of the building and wetlands behind

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the building beyond the parking lot. I attended the ConCom meeting to support the engineer and to advocate for approval of the system since half the leaching field will be located within a wetland buffer. ConCom requested additional site investigation in one other area in the back before they will grant approval and the hearing was continued.

- Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) – attended a one day conference. Topics included legal updates, retail food safety advances, new housing code updates, climate change and environmental justice.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 2, 2023

- Food inspections – Conducted a mobile food truck inspection for Leni’s Catch. The food truck will serve as a temporary surrogate kitchen for the Olde Salt House this summer. The building kitchen, which was shared between Olde Salt and Atlantica, has been demolished as part of the deconstruction of Atlantica. Also inspected and permitted CP’s Wood-Fired mobile food truck for the Art’s Festival.
- Pool inspection – completed opening pool inspection for the Preserve.
- Epiros Wellness – conducted an opening inspection for a new spa facility. The facility has two pods filled with Epsom salts for floating and meditation. Under Massachusetts Swimming Pool Code the pods are classified as “specialty pools” and need to be permitted and inspected. As specialty pools they need to be drained and sanitized every 14 days which they were not planning on doing originally. Their plan was just to keep disinfecting the water similar to a large swimming pool. I have asked them to add dates for draining and sanitizing the pods to their disinfection logs.
- The Preserve – The ongoing tenant housing complaint due to squirrels in the ceiling of a unit has been resolved. Trapping took place this week and no further animals were captured. The tenant reported that they did not hear any more animals. The HVAC system was then professionally inspected and no damage was found. A source of odor was discovered and repaired. All openings were then permanently sealed.
- PHE Grant Local – processed invoices and updated budget spreadsheet.
- 754 CJC Highway – additional test-pitting was scheduled for next week to satisfy ConCom concerns that there are no alternative locations for the septic system that is designed to fall within the 50’ wetlands buffer behind Mullaney’s Seafood.
- Holly Hill Farm – a farmer wants to dry herbs and sell them to the public. Let him know that he needs a food permit and he needs to be ServSafe certified. Although HHF is “organic”, historically, there have been issues with a lack of cleanliness at that facility so I will inspect the process and building where this will take place before he sells to the public.
- 110 Jerusalem Road – drafted a public hearing statement and had it reviewed by Town Council. It was then submitted to the Patriot Ledger. Hearing information was also posted to the Board of Public Health website.
- 249 Jerusalem Road – a driller submitted an application for geothermal wells. I emailed the driller to let him know that they need to (1) notify abutters and (2) I need a copy of an approval letter from MassDEP in accordance with the underground injection control (UIC) program.
- 132 CJC Highway – previously I sent a letter to the out-of-state landlord ordering them to snake the pipes monthly to prevent sewage backups into the floor drains of the South Shore Athletic Center (SSAC). The landlord responded that they would comply, but

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they would be charging SSAC since they believe they are responsible for the pipes. SSAC is planning to push back. I spoke with the town plumbing inspector, and he suggested: (1) find the building as-built plan to show that residential pipes enter into the junction that is causing the backup from above or (2) have a camera survey of the junction and flush the upstairs toilets to show the water coming in. Forwarded the information to SSAC.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 6, 2023

- Food inspections – Conducted the opening food inspection at the Music Circus. Brian Flynn will independently conduct food establishment inspections later in the week.
- Triathlon June 24th – discussed the operation of a food vendor who will be at a Sandy Beach selling grilled cheese. It is not a truck so I will have to inspect the setup on the morning of the triathlon. I also let the deputy fire chief know that they will be using propane for grills.
- Bodyworks inspection – completed a bodyworks inspection at Spa 21 on King Street. I was accompanied by a Cohasset police officer who can speak Chinese. There were no violations.
- 15 Mill Lane – installation of a septic system was held up due to nonpayment from the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), an organization that provides loans to homeowners in need of new septic systems when they are not selling their home. OCPC released the payment this week so installation can be finalized.
- Beach testing – beach testing begins next week. Two reports were received in town hall this week regarding people discarding dog waste into storm drains – one near Rocky Beach. I sent communications specialist Justin Shrair a message to include in the Town Manager Weekly Five Things. The message was that beach testing was beginning next week and a reminder to not to dump anything into storm drains to prevent pollution to beaches.
- 249 Jerusalem Road – a driller submitted an application for geothermal wells. I emailed the driller to let him know that they need to (1) notify abutters and (2) I need a copy of an approval letter from MassDEP in accordance with the underground injection control (UIC) program. The driller responded and will notify abutters this week. MassDEP said they no longer need to approve closed-loop geothermal wells.
- Private wells – it is the responsibility of the Board of Health to maintain records of private wells in town. Historically, however, well records were poorly kept in town prior to 2015 as people did not routinely pull permits or submit plans. Amy Davis and I have been working to improve the records little by little by cross referencing with the MassDEP well database and water company records. Last summer we sent letters to over 200 residences to ask people to complete a brief survey online. We used survey information, plus existing records, to record the locations of about 75% of the wells in town in our GIS system. This week, we are sending out letters to approximately 50 residences who did not respond with a paper survey assuming some of these people may not be comfortable with an online survey. Each survey will be sent with a self-addressed stamped envelope to hopefully improve response.
- PHE Grant Local – I met with Ron Menard, our IT director to discuss if it would be feasible for the grant to purchase 6 ipads (2 for each town) and Cohasset administer the

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long-term cost and maintenance. He agreed that we could, but he will discuss the details with Brian Luther from MAPC and the Scituate and Hingham IT directors.

6:50 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin has been busy permitting recreational camps.

Ms. Goodwin has been sending the Board the following reports:

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 5/26/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1534

Total number of Probable cases: 192

Deaths: six

The Town's total two-week caseload is: <5.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 10.00% (50 total tests)

The Public Health Emergency officially ended on May 11, 2023. As such, the CDC will no longer be reporting covid transmission rates by county. They are now tracking hospital admissions, deaths, and emergency room visits.

Maven call:

5/23/23 Tuesdays call was for questions and answers. Matt Osborne, Epidemiologist, did a short presentation on Alpha Gal which is a type of food allergy usually caused by the bite of the Lone Star tick. Very few cases have been seen in this area, but it is being watched.

DPH call:

5/23/23 Heard a review of the proposed revisions to 105 CMR 430, minimum standards for recreational camps for children state sanitary code. Revisions will be presented to the Public Health Council at the end of June. If adopted, they will go into effect next year.

Dr. Katie Brown presented the 2023 Arbovirus plan. First, she did a review of mosquito borne illnesses, EEE and WNV. MDPH's response plan will start 6/12/23. Traps will be set around the State. Results are available on the State website weekly. We will receive a call if a positive mosquito is identified from a trap in Cohasset. DPH will be starting an awareness campaign next week.

Community Outreach:

5/22/23 Started to review the camp application for the Ecojustice camp being run by the Unitarian Church. Camp will travel to different sites each day and end with an overnight at Wheelwright Park. Plan to meet with them soon as application is missing some key requirements.

5/24/23 Listened to a webinar from the Immunization Division at MDPH. Topic was Vaccine Conversations that Work. Karen Ernst from Voices for Vaccines presented different strategies to use when discussing vaccines with people who are hesitant. She recommends the VFV method – ask, acknowledge, affirm, and answer.

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Met with walk in clients for vaccine records, blood pressure checks, wound evaluations, and medication teaching.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/9/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1537

Total number of Probable cases: 192

Deaths: six

The Town's total two-week caseload is: <5.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 4.0% (50 total tests)

The Public Health Emergency officially ended on May 11, 2023. As such, the CDC will no longer be reporting covid transmission rates by county. They are now tracking hospital admissions, deaths, and emergency room visits.

Community Outreach:

6/5/23 Held office hours at Willcutt Commons – saw four clients.

6/6/23 Adjusted Covid vaccine inventory in MIIS (Massachusetts Immunization Information System). Approved by MDPH to dispose of expired vaccine. Vaccine disposed.

6/7/23 Met with Alexander Nairne from Challenger Sports Camp. Began inspection process for a recreational camp. Identified missing vaccines for a staff member. He will notify employee and send me an up-to-date vaccine report. Will follow up with an onsite visit to camp on 8/7/23 when camp starts.

6/7/23 Listened to a mandatory webinar presented by Mass DPH about vaccine storage and handling. This training is required by Mass DPH in order to continue to receive State supplied vaccine.

6/8/23 Attended the MAPHN (Mass Association of Public Health Nurses) Southeast chapter meeting. Heard a presentation from Jessica Kraft RNP and Ryan Tappin RNP from Fenway Health Center. Presented updated information about HIV, medications, testing and resources.

6/8/23 Attended the weekly PHE meeting – attendance was low so decided to cancel until next week.

6/9/23 Met with a senior resident – instructed her on how to use her new blood pressure machine. Reviewed medication use, diet and exercise, signs and symptoms of concern and when to contact her MD.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M

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SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

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