

APPROVED

COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY JUNE 13, 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.

Dr. Schubert, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call Vote; All present.

6:02 P.M. 44 Lantern Lane, Variance Request for Town Sewer connection Exemption

In attendance for this Agenda Item: Sean Cunning, Property Owner, David Kelly, represents the new homeowners.

The homeowner is requesting a variance to Cohasset Supplemental Title 5 regulations to continue using a septic system rather than connecting to the public sewer system. Per Cohasset Regulations: “If connection to the municipal sanitary sewer is feasible, the owner shall abandon use of their system and connect to the municipal sanitary sewer if connection to the municipal becomes feasible unless the Cohasset Board of Health grants relief from this provision through the issuance of a variance.” Ms. Fahey reached out to the Sewer Commission for their opinion and the Sewer Commission informally voted in favor of BoPH granting the variance. The Sewer Commission agreed that it would be fine if the homeowner waited until the current septic system could no longer pass Title 5 before connecting. If the system fails at any time the homeowner will be required to connect to municipal sewer.

Sean Cunning, property owner of 44 Lantern Lane, reviewed the variance request for the board. The septic system is in the back of the dwelling, the basement stairs would have to be reconfigured, there is ledge in front of the house, and it’s about 200 feet from the house to the street. An estimated cost to connect to sewer was \$60,00.00 the price is high due to having to blast the ledge. The system is performing excellently and just passed a Title 5 inspection.

Dr. Schubert asked how often a Title 5 inspection must be performed and wants to make sure the system functions at an adequate level. If the system fails, it will have to be connected to Town sewer. Ms. Kirkpatrick asked why Mr. Cunning is asking for a variance if he is not the homeowner?

Mr. Cunning explained Title 5 inspections are not done regularly. The system would probably need more of a maintenance plan moving forward and he can inform the new homeowners if this is what the Board requires. The property changed hands on June 2, 2023, and the cost of the sewer connection was put in escrow depending on the outcome of this meeting. The cost to connect to town sewer would be Mr. Cunnings’ burden.

Dr. Schubert stated as long as there is an understanding that if the Board allows the variance that in the future a reasonable inspection of the system/yard be completed to make sure there are no problems or leakage from the system.

David Kelly represents the new homeowners at 44 Lantern Lane. Mr. Kelly also wanted to add that there is also a drainage easement that runs across the front of the property that would additionally cause issues with connecting to the sewer.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to approve a variance under Cohasset Supplemental Title 5 regulations to allow the continued use of a septic system at 44 Lantern Lane rather than connecting to municipal sewer until the septic system no longer passes a Title 5 inspection.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

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

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

6:10 P.M. Public Hearing : 110 Jerusalem Road , Irrigation Well

In attendance for this Public Hearing: Brian Joyce, 84 Jerusalem Road Abutter, Jeff De Lisi, attorney representing Brian Joyce; Kristen & Micah Moreau, applicant/property owners, Adam Brodsky attorney representing the Moreau's; Alex Weisheit, Town council, Matthew Roth, Builder.

Materials used for this agenda item:

- Online Application for Well Permit dated, 03/23/2023.
- Site Plan from William & Sparages Engineers, Plan dated, 3/08/2023.
- Massachusetts Well Driller Certificate, Christopher Bernier, #958.
- Letters from Abutters and the Drilling Company.

Ms. Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair, read the Public Hearing Notice as published in the Patriot Ledger on *June 2, 2023*:

The Cohasset Board of Public Health will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 pm virtually via a Zoom webinar, to review and vote on an application for an irrigation well permit at 110 Jerusalem Road. An abutter has expressed opposition to the irrigation well and is opposed to any future drilling and/or ledge work activity. The public is welcome to attend the Zoom hearing using login information available on the agenda that will be posted on the Town of Cohasset website or submit their input in writing by emailing pfahey@cohassetma.org prior to the hearing.

Dr. Schubert Stated: The purpose of this hearing tonight is for BoPH to decide whether to approve an irrigation well application for 110 Jerusalem Road. The Board has received a letter from the abutting neighbor at 84 Jerusalem Road stating their opposition to the well permit. The board also received a letter from Clearwater Pump and Well, the drilling company for the irrigation well, in support of the installation. The person who asked for the hearing is the affected party. The person with the project is the applicant for the permit. This has duly been posted and the parties have been notified. Dr. Schubert questioned would both parties like to continue this hearing.

Jeff De Lisi represents the Joyce's at 84 Jerusalem Road who are the affected party in this circumstance and would like to continue with the hearing if the applicant is still seeking an irrigation well.

Adam Brodsky, Environmental & Land use lawyer represents Kristen & Micah Moreau as trustees of the Moreau family revocable trust who are the applicants, and they would like to move forward with the hearing for the irrigation well application.

Mr. Joyce was sworn in and Mr. Brodsky is not planning on calling any witnesses because this is a public hearing.

Mr. De Lisi stated Mr. Joyce appeared in front of the Board last year and expressed his concerns when the Moreau's proposed geothermal wells on their property. The Joyce's were given assurances that did not pan out. Based on those assurances they did not oppose the geothermal well permit application in 2022. The well drilling at the applicant's property resulted in harm to the Joyces' property. This is the basis of their request for no additional drilling. Mr. De Lisi sent a letter to the Board outlining the safety risk. A greenhouse collapsed on the Joyce's property, a pool cracked, and both the pool and a koi pond leaked because of the geothermal well drilling. The Joyces felt the vibrations through their home in January and April. The Joyce and Moreau properties share the same ledge and bedrock. Mr. De Lisi noted that the stated purpose of the Cohasset well regulations is to provide protection of public health, safety, and welfare. The Joyces have been adversely impacted by the previous well drilling at this property. Therefore Mr. De Lisi and the Joyces believe the burden should be on the applicant to demonstrate that the previous damage would not be exacerbated, and no new damage would ensue.

Mr. De Lisi noted the Building Inspector has already ordered the applicant to stop all drilling and ledge activities. The Building Inspector would like to have an engineer assess both properties, repair the damage to the Joyces property, and to formulate a proper plan to restart the well drilling. Despite those orders there has not been an engineer that assessed both properties, repairs were not performed, and there is no plan just an application. The Joyces believe the applicant should not receive approval of the irrigation well until they address the building commissioner's concerns. Mr. De Lisi feels it would be appropriate for the Board to seek the Building Inspectors' input and recommendations regarding this safety issue. Mr. De Lisi mentioned there is an alternative remedy for this application to still have an irrigation well. The applicants could install an irrigation system without using a well, they could use Town water. The Joyces don't have an alternative other than to ask the Board not to issue the irrigation well permit.

Mr. Joyce, 84 Jerusalem Road, explained he is a direct abutter with 110 Jerusalem Road. The development is an elevated ledge drumlin. Both houses are on the same ledge bedrock. Mr. Joyce has a Koi Pond in the depression of the bedrock that is next to the property line, and a pool within the bedrock in the basement of their house. Both were functioning fine holding water before the drilling. Mr. Joyce was concerned and wrote a letter to the Board of Health prior to the last well permit was issued. In January Mr. Joyce noticed a significant amount of vibration and talked to the contractor and asked him to come into his home to feel the vibrations and look at what he is concerned about. Mr. Joyce and the contractor walked through his house showing the contractor

the koi pond and pool that were undamaged at the time. Mr. Joyce was told the drilling would take 3 to 5 days after 3 weeks of drilling removing ledge and vibrations. Mr. Joyce noticed the pool and pond were losing water and used town water to keep filling both. There are cracks in both vessels that happened during this vibration with the geothermal wells that were installed. An irrigation well is not required for an occupancy permit. It is basically convenience to get free water to water the yard or plants. Mr. Joyce is using his purchased water to fill the pond, so the fish don't die. The irrigation well will reduce the groundwater table. The properties are on a perched drumlin if ground water table goes lower the leakage in the pool and koi pond will only get worse with the head differential. For these reasons the Joyce's are opposing irrigation well.

Adam Brodsky informed the Board that Matthew Roth from Hawthorne Builders has joined the zoom meeting and is available to answer questions or testify. Mr. Brodsky reminded the Board of what is in front of them. This is an application for the installation of an irrigation well. Proposed to be installed by Clearwater and using Gap Mountain Drilling, LLC. as its contractors. As Mr. De Lisi and Mr. Joyce have indicated, his clients previously obtained a permit to install geothermal wells. This work was completed in January 2023. His clients recognize that the Joyces allege the installation of the geothermal wells has caused property damage. Since Mr. Brodsky has been retained, he has been facilitating the insurance claims process. The contractor and drilling company for the geothermal wells have insurance for these types of claims and they have provided all the claim information that's available to attorney De Lisi. The Moreau's feel terrible the Joyces have a problem but they're doing everything to address the problem within the confines of their contractual obligations with their general contractor as well as the geothermal drilling contractor. They take no position regarding the technical merits of the Joyces allegations. They will leave it to the insurance professionals and geotechnical experts to address that issue. As attorney De Lisi suggested that's a private property dispute there is no issue of public health involved in this matter.

Mr. Brosky suggested because there is no public health issue there is no basis for the Board to pursue enforcement under general law Chapter 111 section 122 which was cited in attorney De Lisi's letter to the Board which grants the board jurisdiction over matters of public health. The only issue that's presently in front of the Board and, respectfully within its jurisdiction, is whether the irrigation well meets the Cohasset *Regulations for Private Wells* and there has been no testimony to the contrary. The location of the well meets the private well siting requirements in the Town's regulations as well as the construction rate requirements which are only the technical requirements for an irrigation well. As Dr. Schubert alluded to, an irrigation well is a private well under Cohasset *Regulations for Private Wells* and not a private drinking water well. The proposed well meets all the requirements.

Mr. Brodsky explained because the Moreau's are sensitive to the Joyce's concerns, they went one step further and requested a letter from Clearwater that was given to the Board explaining the rotary drilling process that will be used for the irrigation well. Clearwater indicates they have drilled thousands of wells using this technology and have had no instances of damage to the adjacent properties. This information was given for informational purposes because that is not one of the legal standards for the Board to consider with respect to whether this application is appropriate or not. This is not an issue of public health, but they are doing their best to provide

assurances to the Joyces that the installation of irrigation well should not do any harm. The general contractor, Clearwater, and Gap Mountain Drilling are fully insured to address any property damage and for any claims that may arise.

Mr. Brodsky was surprised by Mr. De Lisi's reference to an enforcement from the building inspector. Mr. Brodsky and his clients are not aware of any enforcement order. They know John Hallin has been involved and has provided suggestions to the parties on how to address the damage allegedly caused by the installation of the geothermal wells, but Mr. Brodsky does not have a copy of an enforcement order from Mr. Hallin. Mr. Brodsky asked Town council Alex Weisheit, who is attending the zoom meeting, for a copy of the enforcement order if there is one. Regardless, that is a different regulatory program. The building inspector presumably has authority under the Cohasset ledge removal bylaw to address any issues that may arise that is not an issue for the Board of Health.

Dr. Schubert reviewed the *Regulations for Private Wells* for an irrigation well: Chapter 7, Well Siting. The proposed siting appears to meet requirements within the regulations. Dr. Schubert proposed one question. Section 10 of the regulations states "the driller shall operate all equipment according to generally accepted standards in the industry and take appropriate precautions to prevent damage, injury, or loss to a persons and property at the drilling site", but this doesn't necessarily involve the site of the abutters? Dr. Schubert expressed that a lot of the concerns by the abutters and attorney De Lisi are out of the Board of Health's jurisdiction and authority. The damage to the property at 84 Jerusalem Road at this point is a private matter between the abutter and the applicant.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to approve an irrigation well permit for 110 Jerusalem Road.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

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

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to close the public hearing.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

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

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

6:34 P.M. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to approve the minutes from May 23, 2023.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

VOTE: 3-0 **MOTION CARRIED**

6:35 P.M. **Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.**

6:36 P.M. **Public Health Director Report**

Ms. Fahey has been busy with permits and inspections getting ready for the Arts Festival, Eco-Fest, and the Triathlon. Ms. Fahey and Brian Flynn have finished the first round of food inspections. Ms. Fahey has been sending the following weekly reports.

6:39 P.M Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin has been with the new minister at the Unitarian Church for an Eco-Justice Camp they would like to have. It has been challenging because the campers go someplace different everyday so there is travel involved. the last day of the camp they want to do a sleepover at the Boy Scout area in Wheelwright Park . Ms. Goodwin will meet with the minister to go over that will entail. The State requires a lot of requirements once campers go off site. Dr. Schubert asked if there are any plans down the road to have the RSV vaccination available in Town. Ms. Goodwin has not looked into that as of at. The Vaccine must be purchased which would become a budget issues. Ms. Goodwin is waiting to see what happens with the covid vaccine in the fall. Ms. Goodwin would like to have flu and covid but to budget for that might be difficult because covid is up over \$100.00 a dose. There are funds in our revolving fund but not enough to cover the doses needed. Dr. Schubert agreed the government won't be supplying the cost of the covid vaccines, possibly some of the flu vaccines. It may be a budgetary problem. Ms. Goodwin has been sending the following reports.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 16, 2023

- Food inspections – Brian Flynn wrapped up the spring season of food establishment inspections last week by inspecting Stop & Shop, Hissho Sushi, Black Cat Bakery, Cohasset Golf Club, and Lenny's Hideaway. This week I inspected the opening for Sandy Beach Snack Shack as well as Willcutt Commons, Cohasset Lightkeepers and First Parish Church.
- Cohasset Lobster Pound – the lobster pound ownership changed hands this year and new ownership never applied for a food permit. I made several attempts to track down the new owner and finally tracked him down this week. He came by the office and filled out the electronic paperwork and paid the fee for a food establishment permit.
- Beach testing – sent out beach permits to the three beaches that provide the range of dates that beaches are tested and a contact phone number. The first round of bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- 249 Jerusalem Road – abutter notifications were sent out. Spoke with the driller and requested a revised figure with a proper scale. Let him know that he needs to wait 30 days in case there are objections from abutters.
- BoPH Meeting – Board approved variance request for 44 Lantern Lane to remain on septic and approved an irrigation well permit for 110 Jerusalem Road. Sent new and former 44 Lantern Lane homeowners a letter of approval and issued the well permit to 110 Jerusalem Road.
- Private wells – We received several private well surveys this week. The self-addressed stamped envelope appears to be an effective method with people who did not want to complete an online survey last summer.
- PHE Grant Local – Brian Luther connected with Ron Menard, Cohasset IT Director, and will order the iPad in the next two weeks. We will also post a part-time position for a regional inspector.
- 754 CJC – septic system was approved by ConCom. The engineer had advanced additional test pits behind the building to demonstrate that the planned location within the 50' wetlands buffer was the only practical location for the system. Soil evaluator Phil Spath spoke in support of the location on behalf of the town.
- Updated Health Web Pages – Mary, Stephanie and I met with town communication specialist Justin Shrair to go over updated changes that we had submitted to the Health, BoPH and Public

Health Nurse web pages on the town website. The website information is greatly improved with just some further minor updates needed.

- Biweekly DPH Call – heard presentations on Community Health Workers in Massachusetts (which is ironic since we were denied a request for an outreach worker by DPH using our grant); an open meeting law case where courts sided with first amendment rights. Only threatening behavior is disallowed, but language is acceptable.
- Regional Health Event – Micayla Bickerton, our PHE grant regional public health nurse, held a regional health event in Scituate this week. Dana Farber brought a mobile van and conducted skin cancer screenings as well as biopsies in a separate tent. There was also a Samaritans table where they provided mental health resource literature as well as sunscreen samples and free bike helmets for toddlers. A similar event will be held in Hingham in September and in Cohasset at the spring Health and Rec Fair. All events are open to residents of Cohasset, Hingham, and Scituate.
- Farmer’s Market – Met with organizer Michele Hubley. We went through the list of vendors and confirmed everyone is permitted and discussed potential future vendor options.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 22, 2023

- Food inspections – I will perform a food inspection of the vendor that will be at the triathlon on Sunday morning at Sandy Beach. This is assuming that the triathlon will still be held as a piping plover nest was discovered this week and a portion of the beach is now cordoned off and could impact the entry and exit point at the far end of the beach (left side looking at the ocean).
- Beach testing – Bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- Town Pool – conducted an opening inspection at the Cohasset Swim Center. Last year Mass DPH conducted a very thorough inspection at the facility that resulted in a long checklist of required updates. They have done a great job of making necessary repairs and upgrades. The water temps in the bathroom facilities were not hot enough on inspection day; I returned after they called a plumber and the water reached proper temperatures for the opening on Saturday.
- Barn / Animal Inspections – met with members of Cohasset police department to discuss how we can partner to get barns inspected per our BoPH Keeping of Animal Regulations. We concluded that the best solution is to have the town manager deputize the animal control officer to be an agent to the BoPH. Currently his inspections are done on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) and he cannot share information on the local level. Once deputized he can do inspections for MDAR in spring and BoPH in the fall (or vice versa).
- Private wells – We continued to receive private well surveys this week. The self-addressed stamped envelope appears to be an effective method with people who did not want to complete an online survey last summer.
- PHE Grant Local – Brian Luther connected with Ron Menard, Cohasset IT Director, and will order the ipads in the next week. DPH reviewed our FY 2024 Workplan, and they want us to incorporate more “racial equity” into our future objectives. I have a call into DPH Friday to ask specifically how we can satisfy their requirements given the racial makeup of our three communities.
- 380 – 400 CJC – now that the plaza has connected to sewer, they need to properly decommission their tanks in accordance with Massachusetts Title 5 regulations. I spoke with the plaza owner this week to get an update. Next week I should be called to witness the Bioclere

tank decommissioning in front of Stop & Shop and the tanks in front of Feng Shui on August 8th.

- 10 Ocean Ledge – reviewed materials delivered for an occupancy permit for new construction with a potable well. Informed the home developer that they need to submit a well pumping report to complete the submission.
- Community Fund – Stephanie and I met with the town manager to see if there is a way logically to set up some type of gift fund to help those people in the 18- to 60-year-old age group that do not fit the eligibility criteria from the Cohasset Social Services League that is focused on people aged 60 and over. Stephanie will draft a policy based on models in Marshfield and Weymouth. TM will contact other existing groups in town that may be able to provide services.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 30, 2023

- Food Safety – I attended an online MHOA seminar on Summer Food Festival and Food Trucks.
- Beach testing – Bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- Title 5 Reports – reviewed several Title 5 inspection reports.
- Mass DPH Bi-weekly Call – DPH gave a presentation on a new injury/illness report that summer camps must fill out online and submit to DPH. They must also notify local BoPH departments.
- 12 Hobart Lane – reviewed a plan for an irrigation well permit. Had the homeowner resubmit to achieve a setback requirement from a sewer line. They will need a variance request and will be on the agenda for the next BoPH meeting.
- 18 Dolan Lane and 10 Ocean Ledge– new residential home construction projects seeking Water Supply Certificates for newly installed drinking water wells. Informed both developers that they need a Pump Test report (as per Cohasset Private Well Guidelines) from the drillers to demonstrate that the wells can supply an adequate amount of the water to the homes based on the number of bedrooms before the Water Supply Certificates can be issued and I can sign off on the building Certificates of Occupancy.
- PHE Grant Local – Met with Brian Luther (MAPC), Mary, Stephanie, Susan (Hingham) and Micayla. Brian was able to complete the order for the ipads in time for the end of the fiscal year. The software cost will be in FY 2024 budget, but that is okay given our increased budget for FY 2024. We discussed updates to the FY 2024 Workplan.
- Community Fund – Follow-up from last week, Stephanie and Mary met with Reverend Maggie Arnold to talk about a fund to help individuals with emergency needs. It was a very successful meeting. The Reverend agreed a Cohasset Community Fund would be a worthwhile project for the religious leaders in town and she believes they already have the mechanisms in place to collect and disperse such funds. Stephanie could discreetly bring them cases that she had vetted. Stephanie will attend the next religious leader meeting in September for further follow-up.
- PHE Hub Training Call – As part of the PHE grant program, DPH has an initiative to get health staff trained and credentialed. They are rolling out training “hubs” for different areas of the state that are still under development. We fall under the training hub in Randolph. We were informed in a meeting this week that the state has hired trainers who will train local trainers for these hubs. No local trainers have been hired yet. We will have an in-person training on August 1 for hazardous materials protection.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending July 6, 2023

- Food Safety/Permitting – I received an application from two 17-year-olds to grill gyros at the Farmer’s Market. I had them take ServSafe and Allergen Awareness training. I also had them obtain an agreement with a commissary kitchen which they identified as The Barrel, an employer for one of the students. I then met with them in person this week to walk through a step-by-step process and simultaneously prepared a plan for delivering food safely. Plan included: where they purchase food, how food will be stored and prepped at the Barrel, how it will be transported safely and kept cold at the Market, how they will monitor temperatures including internal meat temperatures, providing a hand wash station, wearing gloves, separating foods, packaging food for customers, having a separate person to handle money. I then did an inspection when they were 1 hour into serving food at the Market. I let them know how to safely sanitize the meat thermometer after each use, otherwise they were in compliance.
- Beach testing – Bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- Title 5 Reports – reviewed several Title 5 inspection reports.
- Marylou’s – Mary received a complaint last Friday from someone who said that he was infected with a virus from a coffee purchased from Marylou’s. He did not receive a specific diagnosis from a specimen but had blood work done and was told he had a virus. Symptoms included feeling light-headed. The patient’s job has him delivering inside medical facilities on a daily basis. Coffee seems like an unlikely cause of infection; however, I conducted an inspection this week as a follow-up and no violations were identified.
- 18 Dolan Lane – received the pumping report to demonstrate that the well can supply an adequate amount of water to the homes based on a bedroom home. Will release the Water Supply Certificate on Monday.
- PHE Grant Local – Met with Brian Luther (MAPC), Mary, Stephanie, Susan (Hingham) and Micayla. We have scheduled a meeting next week with a “Subject Matter Expert” assigned to us by DPH. We will go over our FY 2024 Workplan and determine what edits we need to incorporate to receive an approval from DPH. Many of the comments are focused on the need for additional language regarding racial equity which is a challenge, but Micayla and Stephanie have been very helpful with incorporating new updated language into the plan that will hopefully satisfy their comments.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending July 14, 2023

- Beach testing – Bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- PHE Grant Local – Met with Brian Luther (MAPC), Mary, Stephanie, Susan (Hingham) and Micayla. We had a pre-meeting before the meeting with DPH and our subject matter expert regarding our FY 2024 Workplan. That was followed by our meeting with Bethany Griles (our DPH grant coordinator) and Ruth Clay (retired Melrose-Wakefield Health Director) our subject matter expert. Bethany indicated that the edits incorporated by Micayla and Stephanie were excellent and the plan just needs minor updates. Next week we will have a meeting with Ruth to take a deep dive and finalize the plan. Also, DPH is understaffed in the finance department and was slow to issue our last quarterly payment and has not sent us our FY 2024 first quarter payment. I confirmed that I will not send back FY 2023 unspent funds until I receive the first FY 2024 payment.

- CHNA – Brian, Susan Sarni, Mary, Stephanie, Micayla, Margaret, and Nicole from Safe Harbor met with BU Professor Jacey Greece to discuss the Community Health Needs Assessment that is included in our FY 2024 Workplan. Safe Harbor will also use her services and conduct their own Needs Assessment. While we wait for DPH approval, she is also offering to do a free evaluation of a topic of our choice for her fall students to investigate for a class project. Stephanie and Margaret provide options.
- 400 CJC – The tanks associated with the former septic system are finally being decommissioned in accordance with Title 5 regulations. I went up and inspected the empty bioclere tanks to confirm that they were cleaned, and holes drilled through the bottoms. They are currently being filled with clean sand. The pump chamber tanks will also need to be decommissioned with the former system in front of Feng Shui.
- Well Survey – completed a well survey for MassDEP. While Amy and I have put in a lot of effort to update our well files, MassDEP is also looking to take on a similar project at the state level and is surveying towns to understand the availability and completeness of records.
- 249 Jerusalem Road – after 30 abutter comment period, reviewed and approved a permit for geothermal wells. I approved the application as there were no variance requests.
- 100 Pond Street SAS – the residents that live in the Manor Way development use the leaching field that formerly served the 100 Pond Street development. The leaching field became available several years ago after 100 Pond Street connected to sewer. This alternative was selected since there are no suitable soils (i.e., percable soils) immediately on the Manor Way properties. An ongoing issue is that the surface of the leaching field is not being maintained properly, which could lead to a failure of the system. I thought after corresponding with the Manor Way Management Company last year that they had contracted with a local landscaper and the leaching field was going to be mown and maintained this summer. I had also asked the 100 Pond Street community not to plant a community garden there anymore. Unfortunately, the community garden exists and the location of it blocks the only accessible way that a landscaper can enter to mow it (three sides are surrounded by woods). The entire leaching field is a giant overgrown wild field with a fenced overgrown community garden at the front. I am in contact with both parties and will try to resolve the problem next week. Since Cook Estate has been ordered to connect to sewer due to a public health emergency, capacity at the sewer plant is approaching its limit so this system must be maintained.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending July 20, 2023

- Beach testing – Bacterial testing results were acceptable for all three beaches.
- PHE Grant State-wide – attended PHE monthly call. DPH dropped a bomb on us and announced that they would not allow PHE funds to be spent on Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) in FY 2024 and, instead, they will be conducting a Community Health Equity Survey that they want us to support.
- PHE Grant FY2024 Workplan – Met with Brian Luther (MAPC), Ruth Clay (retired, our Subject Matter Expert) Mary, Stephanie, Susan (Hingham) and Micayla. We discussed Mass DPH’s continued practice of micromanaging grants, in this case disallowing CHNAs when it seems to be the best tool to assess the underserved in our communities. Ruth encouraged us to push back and her committee of experts from Mass Health Officers Association may take up the cause on our (all PHE grant groups) behalf. We also went over the Workplan with her suggested edits. We need to submit them before August 31st.

- PHE Grant local – I submitted the FY 2023 Q4 report to Brian to submit to DPH when I am out on vacation next week. Brian will include a narrative piece and submit both together.
- CHNA – Brian, Susan Sarni, Mary, Stephanie, Micayla, Margaret, and Nicole from Safe Harbor met with BU Professor Jacey Greece to discuss the Community Health Needs Assessment that is included in our FY 2024 Workplan. Safe Harbor will also use her services and conduct their own Needs Assessment. While we wait for DPH approval, she is also offering to do a free evaluation of a topic of our choice for her fall students to investigate for a class project. Stephanie and Margaret provide options.
- 400 CJC – I inspected the bioclere tanks to confirm that they were filled and covered with soil in accordance with Title 5 requirements. The tanks directly in front of Stop & Shop are scheduled to be decommissioned the week of August 8th.
- 472 Beechwood Street – attended a perc test and provided the on-site engineer with plans showing the existing system.
- 498 Beechwood Street – reviewed the submitted septic design plan and sent comments to the design engineer.
- 100 Pond Street SAS – I was in contact with the management company, and they are in negotiation with local Joe Sestito to mow the leaching field. I also reached out to Joe to see if he needs my help to reach out to a trustee from Pond Street if access to the leaching field is blocked by the community garden. He said that he should be all set and the leaching field mowing should take place by the end of the week.
- Open Meeting Law training – I attended a one-hour Q&A webinar regarding the Open Meeting Law.
- Housing Issue – I attended a home visit with Mary and Stephanie. The call was received by Mary from the son of the resident concerned about unsanitary conditions. Residents agreed to a deep clean provided by a cleaning company and hopefully the family can pay for weekly or monthly maintenance. Stephanie reached out to Elder Affairs to see if they could arrange for the long-term maintenance and Mary arranged for immediate deep clean.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/15/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1538

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 4.87% (41 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:

613/23 Mass DPH continues to stress the importance of following up on immediate diseases within 24 hours even if they come into Maven workflows on the weekend.

Julia Vostok, DPH Epidemiologist, gave an in-depth presentation on investigating enteric gastrointestinal illnesses which are seen most frequently in the summer. She recommends trying

to reach these patients within 24 hours to obtain a food history. The goal of these investigations is to identify high risk settings, provide prevention information, collect exposure information, and monitor trends. Any specimen that gets sent to the State lab will undergo whole genome sequencing.

DPH call:

6/13/23 Lissette Blondette did a presentation on Community Health Workers and explained some of the ways they can be a very valuable resource to LBOH's.

Chery Sbarra from MHOA reviewed the Open Meeting Law.

6/14/23 Listened to a webinar presented by DPH's Immunization Unit about vaccine preventable diseases. Reviewed measles, mumps, rubella, flu, covid and RSV.

Community Outreach

6/12/23 Met with Pam Fahey, Justin Shrair and Stephanie Saunders. Made suggestions and changes to the Town website pages for the Health Dept and Public Health Nurse pages.

6/13/23 Assessed a staff member's surgical incision. Advised to contact surgeon for further advice.

6/14/23 Went to the Unitarian Parish House and met with Rev. Dan Harper and Ngoc Dupont. Started the inspection process for their upcoming camp – Ecojustice Camp South Shore. Camp will run from 8/14/23 – 8/18/23 ending with an overnight at Wompatuck State Park. Will return when physicals and immunization forms for campers and staff come in. Will issue permit then.

6/14/23 Attended the PHE meeting via Zoom. Discussed budget items, software, and iPad purchases.

6/15/23 Saw 3 walk in clients at Town Hall for a variety of reasons. Each evaluated and advice given.

Made a home visit to a home bound elderly resident. Vitamin B12 administered IM. Will revisit in one month.

Reassessed a staff member's surgical incision.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

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

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1539

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 6.66% (30 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:

6/20/23 Due to the holiday courier service to G&L lab was not available so I delivered the 3 beach samples to the lab in Quincy.

6/20/23 Attended the Cohasset Mental Health Work Group meeting with Cohasset Elder Affairs, Cohasset Police Dept., and Safe Harbors which was facilitated by Stephanie Saunders, LICSW. Safe Harbors shared alarming statistics they found because of a recent survey done with middle and high school students. The survey found an alarming increase in suicidal ideation and harm reduction in marginalized populations.

6/20/23 Completed the inspection process at Cohasset Sports Complex. Permit issued to run a recreational camp this summer.

6/21/23 Listened to a webinar sponsored by MHOA on accreditation for Health Departments. 95% of Health Departments that have been accredited feel it is worth it although the process is quite time-consuming and cumbersome.

6/21/23 Met Stephanie Saunders at the Preserve – tried to locate a potentially at-risk male who is living in his car, to assess his mental health status and provide socks, blankets, etc. Unable to locate the person at the usual places he has been seen previously.

6/23/23 Home visit made to an elderly homebound resident – assisted the resident with applying a continuous heart monitor. Monitor placed, review how and when to use monitor, how to charge the android phone that came with it. Residents will call me when the battery is low on monitor so I can assist with applying new one.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/29/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1539

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 (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:

6/27/23 Tuesdays call was open office hours for questions and answers.

DPH call:

6/27/23 The Division of Sanitation presented a new injury and incident report form for recreational camps. The form is electronic, available online and must be completed within 7 days. Training sessions have been offered to camp directors.

6/27/23 Listened to a public hearing offered by Mass DPH regarding the proposed changes to the recreational camp regulations. Changes will apply to medical specialty camps and are proposed for 2024.

Community Outreach:

6/26/23 Made a home visit to a homebound elder to remove the current cardiac monitor and apply a new one. Cardiac monitor placed in charger. Reviewed with client how and when to change monitor.

6/26/23 Had a walk-in client requesting blood pressure check – advised client to contact MD for further guidance. Agrees to plan.

6/27/23 Home visit made to a homebound elder to assist with application of topical patch. Upon arrival the client was found in distress. Assessed, 911 called for transport to ER.

6/27/23 Met with Stephanie Saunders and Rev. Margaret Arnold at St. Stephen's Church. We discussed the need to establish the "Cohasset Community Fund", for town residents who may be in need. Rev. Arnold was in total agreement that such needs exist and would like to present the idea at the September meeting of the Cohasset Clergy.

6/29/23 A home visit was made to an elder – Tax Accountant recently visited client and contacted Cohasset Elder Affairs concerned about client's wellbeing. CEA made multiple attempts to reach the client by phone with no success. Home visit made with Diane Picot, outreach worker CEA. Client did not answer the door. Diane to call CPD for a wellbeing check.

6/29/23 Attended the PHE meeting via Zoom with Pam Fahey, Brian Luther, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton and Susan Sarni. Discussed the current workplan, different programs that Micayla is working on and work force development.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/7/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1540

Total number of Probable cases: 193

Deaths: six

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is 6.25% (32 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:

6/30/23 Received a report from Mass DPH about a potential food borne illness. Spoke with the case – he felt the source was an iced coffee consumed at Mary Lou's in Cohasset. Pam followed up with an inspection of Mary Lou's – no violations found.

7/3/23 Held office hours at Willcutt Commons – saw one client. The weekly coffee hour was canceled due to the holiday so very few people were at Willcutt Commons.

7/5/23 Delivered the beach samples to G & L Lab in Quincy. The courier was unavailable due to the holiday.

7/5/23 Met with a client at town hall to monitor her blood pressure.

7/6/23 Met with a client – taught her how to use blood pressure monitor. Compared her machine to my manual cuff. Comparable readings.

7/6/23 Attended the PHE weekly meeting with Brian Luther, Pam Fahey, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton and Susan Sarni. Continued discussion about the work plan that has been submitted to DPH. Will meet with a Subject Matter Expert next week to fine tune the work plan and hopefully meet the criteria for DPH.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/13/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1542

Total number of Probable cases: 193

Deaths: six

The Town's total two-week caseload is:

The Town's two-week positive test rate is % (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:

7/12/23 Arranged sharps disposal with Stericycle. Kiosk emptied – 2 full boxes picked up.

7/13/23 Administered monthly Vitamin B12 IM to a walk-in resident. Tolerated well.

7/13/23 Zoom call with Pam, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton and Brian Luther to prepare for meeting with Mass DPH regarding the Shared Services Grant work plan.

7/13/23 Met with Bethany Griles and Kaitlin Roane from Mass DPH, Ruth Clay, Subject Matter Expert, Brian Luther, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton, and Pam Fahey to review the workplan for FY 2024 for the Shared Services Agreement. Mass DPH made recommendations for improvement.

7/13/23 Met with Pam Fahey, Brian Luther, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton, Susan Sarni, and Jayce Greece from BU School of Public Health. Jayce Greece explained how the Community Health Needs assessment would be performed. Also discussed the previous meeting of the Shared Services agreement meeting.

7/13/23 Met with the pool operator from the Cohasset Swim Center – advice given re: hand, foot, and mouth disease and how it is potentially transmitted. Fact sheet from DPH given to him to share if needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/21/23.

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1542

Total number of Probable cases: 193

Deaths: six

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is 10.0 % (20 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:

7/18/23 Investigated a suspect case of anaplasmosis. Spoke with Infection Control at South Shore Hospital to obtain clinical info.

7/18/23 Attended the Cohasset Mental Health work group meeting with different town departments. Police continue to see an increase in mental health calls. Discussed offering a psychological first aid class to town departments.

7/18/23 Listened to a webinar titled Inclusive Emergency Management offered by MEMA and the Mass. Office on Disability. When emergency shelters and warming/cooling centers are opened they must meet the ADA laws. Luckily our emergency site is Willcutt Commons which is ADA accessible. Other things to consider are whether we are reaching marginalized residents, and people with functional needs.

7/19/23 Attended the monthly PHE meeting. DPH will no longer allow PHE funds to be spent on a Community Health Needs Assessment and instead going to perform a Community Health Equity Initiative.

7/19/23 Made a home visit to an elderly home bound resident – administered Vitamin B12 IM.

7/19/23 Made a home visit to an elder at the request of Patricia Faletra (social worker at Willcutt). The son of the resident called CEA as he is very concerned about the condition of the home. Made a home visit with Pam Fahey and Stephanie Saunders. Resident agreed to a deep clean and then hopefully weekly homemaker assist provided by South Shore Elder Services. Called Service Master – they will do an inspection today.

7/20/23 Met with Brian Luther, Pam Fahey, Stephanie Saunders, Micayla Bickerton, Susan Sarni, and Ruth Clay who is our assigned “Subject Matter Expert.” Frustrations were expressed by the group with DPH. Ruth encouraged us to try and negotiate with them. Reviewed and made recommendations about the workplan. Changes will be made and then hopefully submitted and accepted by DPH.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

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

MOTION CARRIED 3-0