

# **APPROVED**

## **COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES**

**DATE:** TUESDAY June 21, 2022  
**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Online Zoom Meeting

### **Board Members Present:**

Michael Pollastri, PhD, Chairman  
Elizabeth Kirkpatrick  
Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Clerk, Absent  
**Recording Secretary:** Amy Davis

### **Public Health Director:**

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

### **Public Health Nurse:**

Mary Goodwin, RN,

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**6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order.**

**6:31 P.M. 15 Mill Lane, Septic System Design Plan, I/A Technology, MicroFAST 0.5 De-Nite Treatment Tank with Geoflow Drip Tubing, Morse Engineering.**

**In attendance for this hearing: Paul Gunn, Morse Engineering**

**Material used for this agenda item:**

- **Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 6/01/2022**
- **Septic System Design Plan, dated, 5/31/2022, revised 6/8/2022**
- **Form 11, dated 4/5/2022**
- **Percolation Test dated, 4/05/2022**

Paul Gunn, Design Engineer, Morse Engineering reviewed the septic design plan for 15 Mill Lane. The property currently has a single-family dwelling with a paved driveway. The system that is servicing the dwelling is in failure. The applicant is proposing to replace the failed system. Morse had a hard time locating the existing system and believes it is a cesspool located under the side deck, a line was located that leads under the deck. The cesspool, when found, will be decommissioned.

There are resource areas on the site including a 100-foot buffer to two separate bordering vegetative wetlands. One is to the south and one to the north. The wetlands to the north are associated with Bound Brook which comes with a 200 feet setback from a river front area and a 400-foot setback from a nitrogen sensitive area. The proposed new system will include a secondary treatment tank which meets Cohasset Supplemental Regulations regarding nitrogen removal. The upgraded system would consist of MicorFAST 5.0 DeNite treatment tank, 1500-gallon pump chamber, 500 square feet of GEOFLOW drip leaching field. Mr. Gunn mentioned there was no ledge to remove. Refusal was found in the test pits at about five feet down it was weathered and fractured bedrock. The ledge can be removed with an excavator, the project will not require blasting. The applicant is requesting two local upgrade approvals. Ms. Fahey let the Board know the Conservation Commission approved the project at last week's meeting.

**MOTIONED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(j) to allow a minimum of 2 inches of separation between estimated high groundwater and the tank inlets and outlets.

**SECONDED BY:** Dr. Pollastri

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

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**MOTIONED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(i) to allow a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.

**SECONDED BY:** Dr. Pollastri

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

**MOTIONED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 15 Mill Lane dated 5/31/22, revised 6/9/22.

**SECONDED BY:**

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

**6:37 P.M.** **Approve Meeting Minutes from March 1, 2022 & May 31, 2022**

Dr. Pollastri declared "out of a vote of necessity", Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, is eligible to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2022.

**MOTIONED BY:** Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2022

**SECONDED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

**MOTIONED BY:** Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 31, 2022.

**SECONDED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

**6:39 P.M.** **Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday July 7, at 4:30 P.M.**

**6:45 P.M.** **Public Health Director Report**

Ms. Fahey is still reaching out to neighboring Towns regarding the PHE Grant and there doesn't seem to be any interest with other towns joining Cohasset & Hingham. Ms. Fahey gathered beach samples to be brought to the lab, kids from CSCR are still in school and should start taking samples in a few weeks. The new bakery Black Cat Bakery was inspected and should be open next week. The new sewer line project for 380/390 Chief Justice Cushing Highway has started and should be finished by August. Interested tenants for 390 CJC HWY have reached out to the Health Dept and Building Dept. asking when the new apartments would be available. The building needs to be connected to sewer before this can happen.

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

**Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 3, 2022**

**COVID-19:**

DPH – No call this week,

A second booster clinic is schedule for Tuesday June 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

**NON-COVID-19**

- I conducted follow up food inspections at Pour and Victoria's confirm previous violations are now in compliance. Also conducted a food trailer opening inspection for Launch Eats.

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- Spoke with the Norwell health agent. He explained that his regional group (Marshfield, Hanover, Pembroke, Norwell, and Rockland) has been waiting to hear from DPH if they have been approved for a PHE grant. Meanwhile, DPH did not schedule a meeting with us (Hingham/Cohasset) with this week. Speculation DPH may be trying to decide how to configure South Shore towns.
- Letters were sent out to approximately 200 homeowners this week to allow us to conduct a well survey. The purpose is to get a GPS reading and input the information into our GIS system to get an accurate location of wells in town. A Survey Monkey survey was uploaded to the front page of the town web site for well owners. Understanding well locations is an important function of local health to protect private water supplies. We will use summer interns working for DPH to take the readings.
- Went to NEIWPC in Lowell and took an exam to become a certified Title 5 System Inspector. Will receive results next week.
- Attended a meeting at Holly Hills farm for a camp permit with Mary.
- Corresponded with various Farmer's Market vendors to get necessary information prior to issuing permits.
- Board of Public Health meeting held on Tuesday. Approved a Keeping of Animals and Stable permit for 73 Atlantic Avenue.
- Provided inspection and permit information for Salty Days to DPH at their request.
- Looked into purchasing sign display cases for beach permits at Sandy and Bassing Beaches

### Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 10, 2022

#### **COVID-19:**

DPH – No call this week

Held a second booster clinic on Tuesday June 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for about 40 people.

I informed our remaining contact tracers that their contract ends on June 30th.

#### **NON-COVID-19**

- I passed the NEIWPC exam and am now a certified Massachusetts Title 5 System Inspector.
- Brian Flynn and I conducted food inspections at all of the Cohasset schools, St. Stephen's church (Launch wants to use it as a commercial kitchen), Olde Salt House and the Legion. A reinspection will be necessary at Olde Salt.
- PHE Grant – DPH informed us that they will not give us another town like Norwell or Marshfield. They suggested we reach out to Hull to see if they would be interested in remaining in the group as an "inactive member". I reached out to Joan Taverna, Hull Health Director, and she was firm that Hull no longer wants to be involved in the grant. Our local DPH representative called me, and they may reach out to the Hull town manager to try to persuade him.
- Received over 20 responses for the private well survey. Hope to have the interns begin recording GPS locations in the field next week.
- Corresponded with various vendors for Farmer's Market and South Shore Art's Festival to get necessary information prior to issuing permits.

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- Corresponded with a representative from the Black Cat Bakery. The proposed new bakery will be located on Route 3A next to the sporting goods store. They need to provide a more detailed floor plan and will need a pre-opening food inspection.
- Attended perc at 12 Lamberts Lane. The soil was poor quality clayey material so we recommended that he apply to the Sewer Commission for a sewer connection since sewer is available nearby on Hull street.
- Met briefly with Nicole Balaschi and Chris Senior regarding the opioid settlement money that will be granted to the town very soon. Agreed to meet again next week along with police and Stephanie Saunders (social worker) to discuss potential uses for the funds.
- Sorted through the septic and private well situation at Dolan Lane. Addresses and parcel numbers have changed multiple times so we updated Morse Engineering regarding the status of the various addresses in terms of what has been submitted, what has been installed, what has expired, etc.
- Approved temporary food permit for Holly Hill Farm farm-to-table dinner.

### Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 17, 2022

#### **COVID-19:**

- DPH – DPH call this week touched on Monkeypox and Covid variants. There was also a presentation regarding the Massachusetts Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund. Cohasset will be receiving payments beginning soon of approximately \$25 this summer. We will meet with Safe Harbor and police and the town social worker in the coming weeks to discuss how to use the funds.

#### **NON-COVID-19**

- Brian Flynn and I conducted food inspections at Stop and Shop, Willcutt Commons, and Lenny's Hideaway. We also met with two women from Balance Studio who will be preparing smoothies out of Made in MA to sell at the studio. One will also be preparing salads out of Made in MA to sell at the Art's Festival. On Friday I performed the opening food inspection at the Sand Bar at Sandy Beach.
- Attended a sewer commission meeting to discuss progress being made for the Cook Estate to connect to sewer. Brian Joyce and Dan Coughlin submitted comments on the 75% design. We still need town counsel to (1) add language to the draft easement prepared by the Cook attorney that specifies that the town will be taking possession of the sewer pipe post-installation and (2) prepare an agreement with Cook so that the connection fees can be paid over a 20-year period (similar to the agreement with the 380-400 CJC property). With assistance from the town manager, we now have a town attorney lined up to help us and will attend a special sewer meeting next week.
- PHE Grant – our local DPH representative met with us (me, Mary, Susan and Brian Luther). It will be up to us to find a third partner. We have one year, FY 2023, to find a third partner. We can still try to pursue Scituate as an “inactive partner” or try to persuade Norwell or Weymouth to join us. We would be reluctant to hire someone with the uncertainty that our group might only have one year, so Brian will look into hiring a consultant epi to set things up if we are able to hire someone permanently in the future if we acquire a third partner. Every

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town will be participating in a “Capacity Assessment” this summer. This assessment may show that some towns have similar needs and may want to switch up regional partners.

- PHE Grant – attended the state-wide monthly call. There was a presentation from an epi working for the Norfolk 8 group that described what types of projects she is working on.
- The summer interns began recording GPS locations in the field this week. They are knocking on doors and finding private well locations on residential properties throughout the town. I continue to update the spreadsheet with new information gained from our Survey Monkey survey on the town website. Corresponded with various vendors for Farmer’s Market and South Shore Art’s Festival to get necessary information prior to issuing permits. Inspected food truck Yummy Pad Thai and issued permit at Farmer’s Market on Thursday.
- Reviewed Title 5 reports that were submitted this week.

### Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 24, 2022

#### **COVID-19:**

- DPH – No DPH call this week.
- Federal approval was announced this week for Covid vaccinations for children under 5 years old.

#### **NON-COVID-19**

- Brian Flynn conducted a food inspection at Evoke Wellness on the Monday holiday.
- Attended a sewer commission meeting to discuss Cook Estate. The objective was to introduce the new town counsel who would: (1) add language to the draft easement prepared by the Cook attorney that specifies that the town will be taking possession of the sewer pipe post-installation and (2) prepare an agreement with Cook so that the connection fees can be paid over a 20 year period (similar to the agreement with the 380-400 CJC property). The new attorney met member of the commission and the town engineer and will reach out to them for questions while she drafts the documents.
- PHE Grant – Susan Sarni reached out to our colleagues in Weymouth to see if they would like to join our group, however, they are satisfied with the regional group that they are in. So, after getting similarly rejected by Norwell we are running out of options for a third partner. DPH is giving us another year to continue operating and try to find another partner. We plan to accept the money and use it in FY 2023.
- Met with the town social worker and police twice this week to discuss difficult cases on Doane Street and 211 South Main Street (the “Castle”). In both cases the social worker filed paperwork to have residents removed and hospitalized for evaluations. For Doane Street the hope is for a conservatorship. For the Castle resident, the plan is for placement with the VA. Once the Castle resident is taken care of the Castle will be condemned and boarded up to prevent vagrant occupancy and vandalism.
- Board of Public Health meeting – septic plans for 15 Mill Lane were approved.
- Connected a resident with a bat problem with Bay State Wildlife for guidance.
- Collected and delivered beach samples to G&L lab. All results were at or below the detection limit.
- Attended a housing court case at Quincy District Court for the eviction of residents at 660 Jerusalem Road. A settlement was agreed to and the residents will move to Hull in August.

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**6:50 P.M.**      **Public Health Nurse Report**

**Ms. Goodwin was absent from the meeting but, has been sending the Board the following reports:**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/2/22**

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1277

Total number of Probable cases: 167

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: thirty-six

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 11.98% (334 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

### **Community Outreach:**

**5/31/22**

Home visit made to a homebound elder to administer Vitamin B12 IM.

**6/1/22**

Went to Holly Hill Farm with Pam Fahey to continue the camp inspection process. They are in the process of obtaining electrical and building permits for the Tomato barn to make it meet the ADA requirements and are having new wiring put in. The new wiring will enable the building to have a heat sensitive smoke alarm installed. Also reviewed some of the staff's immunization records. One staff member found to not be in compliance. Advised them where he could go to get vaccinated.

**6/1/22**

Sat in on an interview with Ted Carroll from the Cohasset Recreation Department. Interviewed a potential camp nurse for his summer Rec. Program.

**6/2/22**

Attended the PHE grant meeting with Brian Luther, Pam Fahey, and Susan Sarni. We are still waiting to hear from Mass DPH whether a group of two towns is viable to meet the requirements of the grant. Discussed potential next steps.

Our next Covid clinic is 6/7/22 at Willcutt Commons from 3:00 – 5:00. We currently have thirty people signed up.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin RN

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## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/10/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1284

Total number of Probable cases: 168

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: twenty-four.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.87% (282 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

**Maven Call:**

**6/7/22**

New guidance has been issued for schools, daycare, and recreational camp. If a child is exposed, they do not have to quarantine but must wear a mask for 10 days after exposure. If symptomatic they should test, and if unable to mask then need to test on day five or later.

Home test kits can now be used on children under 2 years of age.

DESE will not be providing test kits to schools in the fall. Schools can purchase them from the State.

EEC has changed the requirement for staff. If exposed, they can continue to work whether vaccinated or not but must test x 5 days.

**DPH call:**

Unable to attend due to covid clinic.

**Community Outreach:**

**6/6/22** -Held office hours at Willcutt Commons. Saw five clients.

**6/7/22**-Held a Covid vaccination clinic at Willcutt Commons. Vaccinated thirty-nine people.

**6/8/22**- Watched a required webinar sponsored by Mass DPH titled, VFC Compliance/Vaccine storage and handling. Obtained a certificate of training which is required annually in order to get vaccine.

**6/9/22**-Provided guidance to the Recreation Dept about covid cases in the outdoor basketball program.

**6/9/22**-Attended a PHE meeting via Zoom with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni and Brian Luther.

Ongoing dialogue with Holly Hill Farm regarding the use of the Tomato Barn as an assembly area for camp. Reached out to Mass DPH Community Sanitation Division for guidance. Have discussed the barn with John Hallin, Building Inspector. He has told Bruce Frost from Holly Hill Farm what needs to be done to bring the barn up to code. No building permits have been issued to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin RN

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## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/17/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1296

Total number of Probable cases: 169

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 7.31% (260 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Low.**

Plymouth – **Low.**

### **DPH call:**

DPH had contracted with a company called Purple Shield to set up and run Covid clinics. It was brought to DPH's attention that some of the vaccine used had expired. Letters have been sent to all recipients recommending they get revaccinated.

Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 have a different set of mutations. Unable to predict what this might mean for the future.

Monkeypox numbers are slowly rising. Most cases are a result of sexual contact. The smallpox vaccine may offer some residual protection.

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund was started in May of 2021. Funds will be distributed to municipalities. They should be focused on expansion of harm reduction services, increased access to methadone, expansion of supportive housing programs and community outreach and engagement.

### **Community Outreach:**

**6/14/22**-Listened to an online seminar about the impact of Covid 19 on other vaccine preventable diseases.

**6/14/22**-Went to the Cohasset Sports Complex with Pam Fahey. Performed an inspection of their recreational camp. No issues identified. Will bring their permit to them next week. Camp begins 6/27/22.

**6/15/22**-Received two cases of Anaplasmosis in Maven. Investigations performed.

**6/15/22**-Helped Kim Roy, Director of HR, develop a Covid 19 advisory for staff and committee members. Advisory reminds people to test if sick, isolate if positive and notify close contacts.

**6/16/22**-Attended a Zoom meeting with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni, Brian Luther, and Bethany Giles from Mass DPH. Further discussion of the PHE grant and steps going forward.

Ongoing dialogue with Bruce Frost from Holly Hill Farm regarding the use of the Tomato Barn as an assembly area for camp. Reached out to Mass DPH Community Sanitation Division for guidance. Have discussed the barn with John Hallin, Building Inspector. He has told Bruce Frost from Holly Hill Farm what needs to be done to bring the barn up to code. No building permits have been issued to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin RN



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## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 6/24/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 11304

Total number of Probable cases: 170

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 7.46% (268 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Low.**

Plymouth – **Low.**

### **Maven call:**

To date there have been thirteen confirmed cases of Monkeypox in Mass. DPH doing the contact tracing at this point.

A new mask requirement is being issued and will be effective July 1, 2022. Masks will be required on certain Mass sponsored transportation, in health care facilities, at Adult Day Health programs and for staff who are home care workers.

Cyclosporiasis:

Food borne parasite. Seen most frequently from May through September. Common causes are raspberries, basil, cilantro, snow peas, lettuce, and bagged salad mixes. Does require an extensive food history.

Vibrio:

Another common summer bacteria found in coastal waters. It thrives in warm water. Common causes are consuming raw or undercooked shellfish. It has a short incubation period, usually about 24 hours. Cases need to be contacted within 24 hours of positive lab report to determine the cause.

### **DPH call:**

The call focused on vaccinating the 6 month – 5-year age group. There are different schedules for both Pfizer and Moderna. At this time, I am not planning any clinics for this age group. They will be better served in the pediatrician's office.

### **Community Outreach:**

**6/21/22**-I went to the State Lab in Jamaica Plain to pick up EpiPens. This is the second year that the State is providing EpiPens to town health departments. We were issued three adult and 2 Pedi pens. We are required to have these when running vaccination clinics.

**6/22/22**-Completed the camp inspection for Cohasset Sports Complex. Permit issued.

Attended the declutter task force meeting with Cohasset Elder Affairs and the Police Department via Zoom. Discussed various at-risk residents.

**6/23/22**-Attended the Mass. Public Health Nurses Southeast chapter meeting in Weymouth. Listened to a presentation on Alzheimer's disease as required by Mass DPH for license renewal.

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6/24/22-Participated in a meeting via Zoom with Cohasset Elder Affairs and the Police Department about an at risk elder with a poor housing situation. Stephanie Saunders to file with Elder Protective services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Goodwin RN

**MOTIONED BY:** Dr. Pollastri moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00

**SECONDED BY:** Ms. Kirkpatrick

**VOTE:** 2-0 MOTION CARRIED