

# APPROVED

## COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

**DATE:** TUESDAY AUGUST 1, 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

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**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. 12 Hobart Lane, Irrigation Well**

**In attendance for this Agenda Item:** Property Owner did not attend

**Materials used for this agenda item:**

- **Online Application for Well Permit dated, 6/20/2023.**
- **Proposed Well Plan from Hoyt Land Survey, dated 6/2/2023, Revised 6/25/2023.**
- **Massachusetts Well Driller Certificate, James Watt, #191.**
- **Certified Mail Receipts.**

Ms. Fahey reviewed the proposed irrigation well plan for 12 Hobart Lane with the Board. The proposed well location is outside the 100' wetlands buffer zone. It meets all setback requirements from roadways, property line, and sewer lines. Cohasset regulations have a 100' setback requirement from a "drywell". This property has a stormwater subsurface drainage system that falls under the broad definition of a dry well (an underground structure filled with gravel or rubble to receive drainage and allow it to percolate into the subsurface). The proposed well is only 27' feet from the subsurface drainage.

Ms. Fahey spoke with the engineer that designed the subsurface drainage system and the following are mitigating factors that indicate the system would not impact the water quality of the irrigation well:

- Rainwater is collected and treated via a sand filter before infiltration.
- The system is very shallow, only 2' to bedrock, while the well will be drilled much deeper to groundwater. The top of the well will be sealed off internally to prevent shallow contamination.
- The proposed well is located downgradient from the drainage system, groundwater flows north/northeast toward the wetlands.

**MOTIONED BY:** Per local Cohasset *Regulations for Private Wells*, Ms. Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the irrigation well variance request to allow a reduction in the setback from a subsurface drainage system from 100' to 27' feet.

**SECONDED BY:** Ms. Lewis

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Marcia Lewis-Aye, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Aye, Dr. Schubert- Aye**  
**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**6:05 P.M. PHE Grant Update**

Regional Public Health Nurse Micayla Bickerton introduced herself to the Board and discussed the community education events that she has coordinated: a skin cancer screening in Scituate with the mobile Dana Farber van; a tick talk in Cohasset and an upcoming event in Hingham for incoming college freshmen and their parents with speakers presenting on campus safety, healthy food and exercise, mental health, first aid and health preparedness as it pertains to being away from home.

Regional Social Worker Stephanie Saunders discussed her dual role as a clinical social worker for the towns of Cohasset and Scituate; and providing regional education and projects. She recently hosted a QPR suicide prevention training for Cohasset town employees and has been meeting with a BU professor regularly to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment to identify populations in need and gaps in health services.

**6:15 P.M. Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.**

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

Ms. Fahey reported that she and Ms. Goodwin attended a Trauma Training earlier in the day that presented ways to reduce or eliminate exposure when entering homes with uncontrolled environments such as hoarding, needles, blood, excrement or drugs. While attendees were public health workers at today's training, the program would also be beneficial for first responders and other workers.

**6:39 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report**

Ms. Goodwin agreed that the training would be beneficial to other workers. She plans to contact the Trauma Training team to see if they will give a similar presentation in Cohasset. She wants to target facilities workers that may come in contact with blood and needles on the job.

**Ms. Goodwin has been sending the following weekly reports.**

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/27/23.**

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1543

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 % (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.

**DPH call:**

**7/25/23** Listened to a presentation on the role of Local Public Health supporting newly arriving migrants. The State is seeing a steady rise in demand for sheltering families. Local Health

Depts will receive a call from the State if a migrant family is placed in your community. If possible, try to connect with local services, and faith-based organizations.

Laurie Courtney, Nurse Manager of the Vaccine Unit discussed Covid 19 vaccine which hopefully will be available mid to late September. At this point it looks like insurances will reimburse for vaccine and administration costs. Still no idea about the price of the vaccine.

RSV vaccine recommended for all adults 60 years and older. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply so it should be reserved for those most at risk.

**Community Outreach:**

**7/27/23** Listened to a webinar put on by Color, which is the scheduling, billing program we use for vaccination clinics. Many changes have been made to the system.

**7/26/23** Listened to a Zoom meeting about DPH's vaccine registry dashboard. It is a new feature in MIIS which tracks all vaccines given, current inventory, and other reports.

**7/26/23** Attended the Tick Talk coordinated by Micayla Bickerton, our regional Public Health Nurse. Unfortunately, the turnout was low but Blake Dinius, from Plymouth County Mosquito Control, gave a very lively presentation. Many questions were asked and answered.

**7/27/23** Met with Micayla Bickerton and explained vaccination clinics, supplies needed, how to order vaccine, standing orders, MIIS and Color, and signing an agreement with UMass Medical for billing.

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