

DRAFT

COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday October 25, 2022
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present:

Michael Pollastri, PhD, Chair
Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair
Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Clerk. Absent

Recording Secretary: Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN,

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

6:31 P.M. 110 Jerusalem Road Monitoring Well, Energy Smart Alternatives

In attendance for this hearing: Melaine Head, Energy Smart Alternatives

Material used for this agenda item: Geothermal Well Plans dated 3/23/2022, revised 9/19/2022.

Ms. Head, Energy Smart Alternatives, reviewed the plan with the Board. Ms. Head is here on behalf of the well driller and is looking for permission to drill 5 closed loop boreholes. The system will be used to heat and cool the residence that is currently under renovation, it is not a water well. The holes will be drilled in the driveway area with 15 feet spacing between each hole. The depth of the boreholes will be 300 feet. The holes will be sealed and buried so no water can enter the aquifer and no water will be pumped. Ms. Head mentioned Energy Smart Alternatives follows the MassDEP Underground Injection Control guidelines for geothermal drilling.

Dr. Pollastri asked if it's not a drinking well does the Board have to approve it? Ms. Fahey stated in the past the Board did approve geothermal wells.

Ms. Kirkpatrick asked if there was any system to alert the owner if there is a leak? Ms. Head said yes, the system will shut down and can detect if the fluid is not flowing.

Public comment:

Brian Joyce, 84 Jerusalem Road, direct abutter, has questions regarding the protection of the water bodies on his property: what is the diameter of these wells, what lubricant will be used, where does the slurry go or is there any slurry, what is the time frame to drill the boreholes, and what kind of noise will there be?

Ms. Head explained the holes will be 6 inches in diameter, there is no lubricant added it's the groundwater that is there, anything that comes out of hole is contained on-site. The driller will drill from 8:30 to 3:00 during the day for about 5 to 7 weekdays. It's a grinding action not a hammering action.

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the permit to install geothermal wells at 110 Jerusalem Road.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

VOTE: 2 -0 MOTION CARRIED

DRAFT

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the site plan for 110 Jerusalem Road dated 10/5/2021, revised 10/19/2022.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

VOTE: 2 -0 MOTION CARRIED

6:38 P.M. Approve Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022

Minutes could not be approved at this time due to an absent member. Continued for approval at the next Board Meeting.

6:39 P.M. Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.

6:40 P.M. Public Health Director Report

Ms. Fahey helped with a flu clinic tonight from 4:00 to 6:00. The clinic was very busy and about 100 people were vaccinated. Saturday there will be a third and final flu clinic. There will be two Covid clinics the first week of November and two more the second week of November. Ms. Fahey will attend a three-day conference for the Massachusetts Health Officers Association this week.

Ms. Kirkpatrick asked about the letter the Board received from the abutters to 318 Forest Avenue regarding the stable/horse permit that was issued by the Board.

Ms. Fahey stated it is an ongoing issue. The project is currently in front of the Conservation Commission regarding the stormwater runoff. Both the applicant and abutter have lawyers. There have already been two conservation meetings and Town lawyers will be getting involved.

Ms. Kirkpatrick asked what the Board of Health responsibility is.

Ms. Fahey explained the abutters sent a letter to revoke the stable/horse permit. Ms. Fahey reached out to Town counsel and because the abutters didn't bring forth any new information there would be no reason to pull back the permit. The decision to approve the permit was made on the fact that all setback requirements were met. The abutters argument is with the stormwater runoff being contaminated.

Dr. Pollastri asked if the applicant updates the site plan would they have to come back to the Board of Health?

Ms. Fahey said yes, she thought the applicant would have to come back if there were changes to the site plan.

Fahey has been sending the Board the following weekly reports:

DRAFT

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending September 23, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – No meetings this week.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant Local Weekly Meeting – next week social workers and Brian Luther will attend demos for potential new case worker software to be purchased by the PHE grant. We will soon post a nursing position to primarily support Scituate and Hingham. There will be a focus on providing public health education. Waiting for Cohasset town counsel to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- PHE Grant State Monthly Meeting – went over how to fill out the Capacity Assessment. Should take health directors approximately two hours to fill out. FY2023 payments will be dispersed in four installments this year.
- BoPH Meeting – Board approved new Private Pool Regulations that will require anyone applying for a pool permit through the Building Department to provide a four-foot-high fence encompassing the pool area. This will provide a measure of safety in the event that a pool cover breaks down or there is a loss of electricity, and the cover is stuck in the open position. Sent the regulations to town counsel for final review before sending them to the state.
- Manor Way Circle SAS – I received a complaint from a resident that lives in the 100 Pond Street condos. The Manor Way Circle development (MWCD) does not have percable soils on site and appealed to MassDEP to use the former SAS that served the 100 Pond Street development after they connected to sewer. MassDEP granted permission with the stipulation that MWCD must maintain the SAS (i.e., keep it mown). The resident complained that MWCD was not maintaining it and a Pond Street neighbor paid out of pocket to have it mown this summer because it had become so unsightly. I visited the site and confirmed that maintenance is required, but also discovered that Pond Street residents had planted a raised bed community garden on top of it. I sent out the attached letter to all of the MWCD residents and to the 100 Pond Street resident that lodged the complaint.
- Permit Eyes – reviewed and signed off on various building permits.
- 750 CJC – sent a certified letter to Abacus Asset Management on behalf of the property owners to inform them of the timeline to submit plans for their failed septic system. The system must be upgraded in two years.
- 318 Forest Avenue – an abutter called to find out: (1) if they can appeal the animal/stable permit that was issued to 318 Forest Avenue and (2) if there is a deadline. Town Counsel confirmed that they can appeal the decision to Superior Court within 60 days of the date the stable permit was issued.
- Social Worker update – a lot of Section 12 (individual's brought to a hospital for evaluation against their will) and police activity in town. Reviewed some of the cases.
- Septic Webinar – attended a septic system webinar.
- 380 – 400 CJC – Heritage Pumping called to inform the office that they will be in the field pumping and cleaning grease traps at 380 and 400 CJC this week that will be possibly

DRAFT

reused with the new sewer system if they pass testing. John Hallin and I called Dan Coughlin, consultant for the Sewer Commission, to make him aware since he provides oversight.

- Vaccination Clinics – Mary and I met with the town manager regarding funding upcoming clinics in October and November. Chris Senior will propose the use of ARPA funds to the Select Board. Costs are related to paying for nurses and Fire Department paramedics.
- Lenny’s Hideaway – the owners have left the local area and moved to California. It is not clear who is managing the restaurant operation. John Hallin shut down the outdoor patio that never received permits with a cease-and-desist order. I will check to see whether the manager or a chef has ServSafe and Allergen Awareness certifications. Restaurants must have a ServSafe certified food manager on-site at all times.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending September 30, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – No meetings this week.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant Local Weekly Meeting – No meeting this week (attending annual MEHA conference). Waiting for Cohasset town counsel to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). I completed a detailed Capacity Assessment survey. The survey asked detailed questions to determine if we are meeting out statutory requirements for performing inspections. Ultimately it should show where we have gaps in services and determine future hiring needs under the grant.
- BoPH Meeting – Reviewed and approved a septic design plan for 438 Beechwood Street to replace a failed cesspool.
- Manor Way Circle SAS – I spoke with a woman from a property management company representing Manor Way Circle. She reached out to local landscapers to establish a contract to keep the SAS mown properly. She also reached out to a 100 Pond Street representative via email (and copied me) to ensure them that they will begin to maintain the system. I also let 100 Pond Street know that they need to relocate the community garden next growing season.
- 750 CJC – I spoke to a representative from Abacus Asset Management on behalf of the property owners. I agreed that they can continue with the work on the butcher shop and allow them to open after permitting as long as they agree to the proposed pumping schedule and they retain an engineer to design an upgraded system. They are in agreement and are in the process of selecting a local engineering company.
- Private Wells – During the summer the summer interns located approximately 45 private wells based on responses from a well survey. Amy and I followed up with some of the remaining wells this week that the interns did not get to or were not able to find. We were able to locate an additional five wells that we added to the GIS system. In addition, Amy is going through the files and adding recently installed wells to GIS from as-built plans as well.

DRAFT

- Cook Estate – still waiting for main pump that is scheduled for delivery November 1. The easement with the Heggie property has been sent to the registry. Still negotiating sewer extension agreement with the town. Sewer Commission is approving a 12-month warranty from Paul Davis for the Deer Hill property in place of a bond.
- 380 – 400 CJC – Sewer Commission approved 390 CJC connection. While they approved the exterior connection, the interior occupancy is up to the Building Inspector, John Hallin. Issuing an occupancy permit is based on the meeting requirements for the project as a whole and there are still many unresolved site issues, including connecting the failed septic system at 380 CJC.
- Lenny's Hideaway – the owners have left the local area and moved to California. I checked last Friday afternoon and determined that the chef does have ServSafe and Allergen Awareness certifications so they can continue to operate, although they will also need to meet with the Select Board regarding who is the manager in charge relative to their liquor license.

Attended the annual Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA) conference. Attended sessions concerning food, septic, climate change and PFAS in public water systems and private wells

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending October 7, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – No meetings this week.
- COVID test kits – we received 20 cases of COVID test kits this week. We will communicate to the public that free kits are available at town hall. There have been reports that local pharmacies have run out of them. Besides town hall, we delivered cases to the library, Elder Affairs, and the police station to be available to the public.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant Local Weekly Meeting – Met with Susan Sarni (Hingham), Drew Scheele (Scituate) and Mary Goodwin to go over 10 resumes that we had received for a shared regional public health nurse for Scituate and Hingham. They would like to hold clinics and home visits similar to the Cohasset current model. None of the candidates seemed promising so we will expand the advertising to Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) and Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) next week.
- 318 Forest Avenue – received a letter from the Greenip family attorney requesting that the Board of Public Health revoke the animal permit that was issued on August 26th. The primary concern was stormwater runoff and potential odors. I met with town council, town manager, building inspector and conservation agent to discuss. Based on the discussion I sent a letter to the attorney saying that the board would not revoke the permit based on no new information and these issues would be considered by ConCom and the building inspector before receiving permits. They have the option to file an appeal in court. In the meantime, they sent a second letter to ConCom with comments from an engineer criticizing the design of the stormwater system 2 hours before the ConCom meeting on Thursday evening prior to the hearing. No word on the outcome.

DRAFT

- Private wells – given the issues at 318 Forest Avenue, I reached out to 70 Black Rock Road and confirmed the location of their well and confirmed it was for irrigation only and not potable use.
- Bodyworks - I reviewed a submission for new bodyworks permit for a proposed business that would be located on King Street near the LUNCH food establishment. The final step in the review process will be a CORI/SORI check. Waiting for the respondent to submit an approval form.
- Social Worker Update – Mary and I met with Stephanie for an update this week. Scituate is restarting their Hoarding Task Force and Stephanie will be attending meetings. We need a more organized and detailed strategy for dealing with this issue in terms of coordinating with public safety and the building inspector. That will be the topic of our next in-town Declutter meeting. Stephanie will be providing coverage to Hingham while the begin the process of searching for a new social worker since their's resigned last week.
- 147 South Main Street – construction of a building foundation was halted this week when a distinct black layer of likely petroleum-stained soils and groundwater with an oil sheen were discovered in excavated trenches this week. The location is a former autobody repair shop. MassDEP was called in by the fire department. They ordered the site owner to have a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) collect and analyze soil and groundwater samples.
- 226 CJC – former location of Mathnasium, Brown Bear daycare wants to move to this location. I received a call from an engineer that requested keeping the septic system as is and simply pump on a regular basis. I let him know that in accordance with Title 5 he needs to upgrade the system based on the new proposed use that would result in a verry large leaching field. I also gave him the name of Brett Rowe from MassDEP to see if he had any alternative ideas.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending October 14, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – Several topics were presented including Free Harm Reduction Resources for Municipalities (DPH funded services for people who use drugs); how COVID prevalence is being tracked and recommendation to refer long COVID patients to post-acute clinics in Mass; new Housing Code changes will be implemented in April 2023 and the redline versions of the code are now available online for review. Trainings for Housing Code changes will be rolled out in November.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant Local Weekly Meeting – Social workers attended demonstrations for three different HIPAA compliant software systems last week. I will look into how to best procure the product they have selected. I asked Brian Luther to repost the Nurse job description on the Massachusetts Public Health Nurse Association website and Massachusetts Health Officers website. We have received several resumes, but few qualified candidates.
- 318 Forest Avenue – the stormwater system as designed for the horse paddock was hotly debated at last week's ConCom meeting. The hearing was continued and ConCom

DRAFT

members will be visiting the site next week. They will decide if a third-party reviewer is necessary for the stormwater system.

- Bodyworks – A Bodyworks Practitioner permit was issued to a potential new business owner located on King Street near the LUNCH food establishment. A second permit for the establishment will also be required once the building occupancy permit has been issued.
- Social Worker Update – Mary and I met with Stephanie for an update this week. We talked about all of the free resources available from the state to support people who use drugs. Before any money is used from the Opioid Settlement money, a plan should be in place that considers all of the free resources. Stephanie met with a woman in Scituate who is an expert regarding opioid programming, and we will team with her as much as possible pulling together a plan.
- 256 North Main Street – Phil Spath met with the engineer and project manager to do a field inspection of the newly installed septic system (house with large open pit in front). They had not called Phil for other required inspections but were able to produce photos that confirmed the system was installed correctly.
- Food Inspections - Started a fall round of food inspections with Brian Flynn this week. Conducted inspections at Peel Pizza, 5 South Main, Salty Days and Ava Cucina. Will reinspect Peel that has a fly infestation.
- 602 Jerusalem Road – fulfilled an information request from town council concerning a 40 acre property that was a large proposed housing development that never was approved by Planning.
- Planning and Inspections meeting – met to discuss the status of several projects in town that concern multiple departments.
- Mary and I, along with others from town hall, met with a public health doctor and an environmental engineer visiting Norwood from Southeast Asia as part of an international exchange program. We toured Evoke Wellness, the town transfer station, the harbor, and other areas in town. Mary and I met with the doctor from the Philippines to discuss public health issues.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending October 21, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – No call this week.
- Helped some senior citizens schedule appointments to upcoming clinics.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant Local Weekly Meeting – We did not meet this week due to a conflict. I met with our town procurement officer, and she will procure the MyJunna software system for our social workers and nurses. The contract will be for three years and six licenses (two for each town). Submitted completed first quarter budget to DPH.
- PHE Capacity Assessment – working on Phase 3 of the capacity assessment. Must upload copies of many requested inspection reports. The process may take a few weeks. 318 Forest Avenue – ConCom members visited the site. ConCom held another hotly contested hearing

DRAFT

regarding the stormwater system again this week. The hearing was continued again. Our town council will need to get more involved with interpreting the town's surface water protection bylaws.

- Food Inspections - Brian Flynn and I conducted food inspections at Atlantic Bagel, Gulf Station, CJC Dunkin Donuts, CVS and Starbucks. I also returned to Peel Pizza for a followup and spoke with the owner on the phone while I was there. The restaurant was closed to the public for cleaning and repairs and looked much cleaner. The AC unit was removed from the window and there were noticeably less flies in the building so the infestation was mitigated. The broken refrigerators were either being repaired or replaced. The owner will reach out when work is completed.
- 602 Jerusalem Road – fulfilled an information request from town council concerning a 40 acre property that was a large proposed housing development that never was approved by Planning.
- 734 Jerusalem Road – a private contractor cut a water line and a sewer line (see attached police report). I was out of the office so Susan Sarni from Hingham responded on my behalf. Residents were cut off from water and sewer briefly but were back on by 4:00 pm.
- Pool Regulations – new pool regulations were officially reviewed by town council, and I subsequently sent them to Mass DPH once I figured out the appropriate contact.
- IT Emergency Response meeting – John Hallin and I met online with a consultant who presented us with a survey to determine our most critical IT needs in case our network goes down in the event of an emergency.
- Permit Eyes – spoke with or emailed permitting instructions to the proposed new store The Barrel and vendors for a winter festival.
 - Split Rock Brewery – let the owner know that the module unit that they are constructing will need screens on the service windows given the proximity to the dumpsters for 5 South Main, Peel and Blue Oar that typically results in fly problems each summer.

6:45 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

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

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 9/23/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases:

Total number of Probable cases:

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.77% (171 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Community Outreach:

DRAFT

9/19/22 Held office hours at Willcutt Commons – saw six clients.

9/21/22 Sat in on a meeting with Pam Fahey and Stephanie Saunders. Stephanie updated us on her research looking at electronic records for municipal social workers. She will schedule some demo opportunities for herself, Scituate, and Hingham social workers. Also updated us on some of her clients.

9/21/22 Visited the group homes at 64-1 and 64-2 Elm Street. Administered flu vaccine to eight residents.

9/22/22 Met with Pam Fahey and Chris Senior to discuss upcoming flu and covid clinics. Budget presented. He will ask the Selectman for an additional \$5000.00 to cover the costs. We will have a warrant article for the Special Town Meeting in December to request that a revolving account be set up for vaccine reimbursement so that the money received from insurances will go into the Health Department budget. Currently it goes into the general fund.

9/22/22 Made a home visit to a homebound elder – administered Vit. B12 and flu vaccine.

9/22/22 Attended the PHE Grant meeting with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni – Hingham, Drew Scheele – Scituate, and Brian Luther – MAPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 9/30/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1424

Total number of Probable cases: 174

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 10.56% (180 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Maven call:

Covid is now being classified as a routine disease instead of an immediate disease in the Maven reporting system.

Listened to an extensive review of Pertussis. Reviewed testing methods, control measures, post exposure prophylaxis and vaccine recommendations.

Community Outreach:

9/26/22 Made two home visits to homebound residents to administer flu shots.

9/28/22 Met with Stephanie Saunders, social worker, discussed some complicated cases in the community with which she is working. Planned a joint home visit for next week.

DRAFT

9/27/22 Spoke with Katie Bulman, school nurse Deer Hill School about giving school staff their flu shots. Have arranged three dates to vaccinate at the schools. Links were created for appointment sign ups.

Upcoming flu clinic on Monday, 10/3/22. At this point we have 105 people scheduled. Coordinated room set up with facilities department. Arranged all supplies for vaccinators.

Answered many phone calls from residents needing assistance signing up for appointments for either flu or Covid vaccination.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 10/7/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1433

Total number of Probable cases: 174

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.95% (190 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Community Outreach:

10/3/22 Held a flu clinic at Willcutt Commons – vaccinated 106 people.

10/4/22 Held an employee flu clinic at Town Hall – vaccinated twenty staff members.

10/5/22 Vaccinated eight walk in residents with flu vaccine.

Received more flu vaccine from Vaxserve. Our order is now complete.

Attended a demonstration on MYJunna which is a software program used for client management. The software would be used by social workers and public health nurses. It would be funded through the PHE grant.

Made a home visit to an elder resident to administer flu vaccine.

10/6/22 Vaccinated two walk in residents with flu vaccine.

Attended a demonstration by IHealth, another software program used by social workers and public health nurses.

Attended the PHE grant meeting with Pam Fahey, Drew Scheele, and Susan Sarni. Reviewed ten resumes for a regional public health nurse position. Only one candidate had the experience needed to perform the job.

10/7/22 Made a home visit to a homebound resident – flu vaccine administered.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT

Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 10/14/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1441

Total number of Probable cases: 175

Deaths: five

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

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 9.90% (202 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Maven call:

DPH has updated their guidance for long term care facilities. Active screening for covid symptoms is no longer required, instead they can use signage. Exposed residents do not need to quarantine but should be monitored daily. Staff at LTC's are required to be up to date on their Covid vaccine by 12/1/22.

Update on the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Currently we are at low risk for cases. Five airports are admitting and screening people from Uganda. They are JFK, Dulles, Newark, Chicago O'Hare, and Atlanta. People with an exposure are followed for 21 days. Exposure means close contact with blood or bodily fluids. LBOH will contact case to assess the risk level.

Community Outreach:

10/11/22 Investigated a case of campylobacter. Source appears to be from international travel.

Held a flu clinic for staff at the Osgood School. Vaccinated seventeen people.

10/12/22 Went to the South Shore Community Center – vaccinated seven teachers.

Went to Deer Hill School – vaccinated twenty-three staff members.

10/13/22 Held a flu clinic at Cohasset Middle/High School – vaccinated thirty-four staff members.

Made a home visit to a homebound resident – administered flu vaccine.

Continue making appointments for residents who call and are unable to navigate the Color program in booking their flu/covid vaccines.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

VOTE: 2-0 MOTION CARRIED

DRAFT

DRAFT