



Town of Boxford
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

December 13, 2023

Present: Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Heather Forand, Mark Mitsch, Kendell Longo, Jim Taggart

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Richard Fahrner

Announcements: No announcements

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the **December 13th, 2023** meeting. **Motion** by **A. Constan** to accept minutes as amended, **seconded** by **H. Forand** Approved unanimously.

Bills: Bills were signed.

Waste Stream Task Force update: **A. Constan** was hoping to have the WSTF meet with the BOH today but needs a couple more weeks because they are still getting bids back from the different vendors. First week of Jan, WSTF will be meeting. Two bids in so far without doing a RFP. After the bids come in, they will reach out to the BOH and see if they should go forward with a bid or start the RFP process. Right now, with weekly trash and recycling, Waste Management's the cheapest but if we go to bi-weekly recycling and weekly trash, Mello comes in about \$100,000.00 lower, per year. Still weighing the pros and cons and would get larger bins if we switch to bi-weekly. We'll have an update in January and hopefully come to a decision with the Board of Health. The WSTF with Brendan Sweeney would set up the RFP, if needed. Goal is to have the new service start on July 1st.

National Grid Pole Petition – Hillside Road: No well within a 100 ft of the pole placement. New jointly owned poles. No conflicts with the current pole regulations.

H. Forand motioned to approve the joint owned pole petition for Hillside Rd with the new poles, considering that they are within regulation and not within a 100ft of anyone's wells, **seconded** by **J. Taggart**. Approved Unanimously

National Grid Pole Petition – Ipswich Culvert: No well within a 100 ft of the pole placement. New jointly owned poles. No conflicts with the current pole regulations.

H. Forand motioned to approve the joint owned pole petition for Ipswich Culvert with the new poles, considering that they are within regulation and not within a 100ft of anyone's wells, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved Unanimously

Director's Update: **K. Longo** states we had our last flu clinic on December 1st. They had about 60-70 reservations. We are still taking reservations for December through the Topsfield Town Hall. We had our Town Hall Christmas lunch today and management is working hard for pay increases. We have COVID tests that we are giving away free of charge, in the office. COVID tests are going quickly. **J. Taggart** asked if it was a state program. **K. Longo** shared that the NARCAN program was free to sign up and just required taking an hour course and COVID tests are also through the state. **H. Forand** asked if there were any programs coming up and **K. Longo** stated that they are talking about another youth mental health program and **K. Longo** will share dates when she finds out more.

R. Fahrner asked **M. Mitsch** about an update on the Stiles Pond committee. **M. Mitsch** shared that the Stiles Pond committee generated an RFP for a study to go look at the biological conditions of the pond and evaluate the potential sources of pollutants into the pond. That has gone to the CPC and it looks like the CPC will support it but don't want to vote until they have actual numbers. Another thing the Stiles Pond Committee is working on is a way to look at what's currently going on in the pond. The committee is going to meet with a company called Sledge Hammer and the technology they created is called The Pond Bot to see what they could do and what the cost would be to do some sort of trial or treatment. The committee is planning a zoom call with Sledge Hammer and they will update us.

R. Fahrner stated that the BOH has resumed online trash stickers and the rec committee is looking to do some work near the police department. **R. Fahrner** shared that there are two landfills – one at the solar panels and one by the soccer fields. North of the solar and just south to the police station and through the pond are designated as post closure use areas and designated as landfills. The reason is, they don't know where exactly the landfills are because up until recently, that wasn't reported. The MASS DEP reaffirmed they would leave in place if anything is found in the playground area. We are moving forward with the proposal from Weston and Sampson, who would file the permit with DEP to dig test pits and if no trash is found, they can dig the footings requested. Moving the DPW garage would also be handled in a similar way. DEP understands that the rec committee is trying to get their plan in place to present a budget for the May town meeting. Usually there is a 45-day waiting period but they are working with us to expedite that so they can dig before the ground fully freezes. **R. Fahrner** also mentioned that a resident emailed and Dick

Taylor confirmed that there's a loophole with title v and the loophole is that the way the notification is done with the title v inspections. Usually when a house transfers ownership, a title v is mandated. However, if the transfer is done by auction or person to person, it circumvents that. We may need to add to our regulations that we are interfacing with the accessor's office because the accessor's office is notified of any change in ownership. We will have to clarify if we are violating any privacy but that seems to be the way to go to correct the loophole.

Any new business arising in the past 48 hours: NONE

Adjourn 7:45PM:

Respectfully Submitted,

Yoonjin Lee

