



**Town of Boxford
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health**

- February 7th, 2024

Present: Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Mark Mitsch, Kendell Longo, Yoonjin Lee

Absent: Heather Forand, Jim Taggart

Meeting called to order: 7:00 by Richard Fahrner

Announcements:

Update on SPAC: **M. Mitsch** updates that SPAC is currently pursuing two paths. One is the RFP that has been developed is for conducting a study Stiles Pond and the other is to try to implement an actual pond restoration technology. Essentially there's a technology for passive harvesting of cyanobacteria in open water bodies. It is currently being used at White Pond in Concord MA and in talking with their BOH director, they have very positive things to say about it. Since 2015 up until about 2 years ago, every year they had cyanobacteria blooms that required them to close the beach but since the technology has been used, they have not had any blooms and no closures. SPAC will meet with them tomorrow, Feb 8th and if everyone is comfortable. SPAC may be approaching CPC for funding to do this restoration trial this year.

Budget for Cyanobacteria testing: **R. Fahrner** mentions that when they are testing for cyanobacteria, they sample and test for toxic cyanobacteria and the test kits cost has gone up. We set a budget for \$3000.00 but the kits are now \$3750.00 so Rick suggests changing the budget to \$4000.00. **K. Longo** will meet with Brendan and will put the request in.

Budget for annual Hazardous waste: Karen asked for an increase in the hazardous waste line item from the current \$2000.00 to \$5000.00. **Motion** by **A. Constan** to increase budget from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00, **seconded** by **M. Mitsch**. Approved unanimously.

55 Spofford Road Variance – Jim Scanlan: **Local Regulation 201-9e:** Requires 150 feet separation between the Soil Absorption System (SAS) and the wetland resource area, with the soil percolation rate less than five minutes per inch. The proposed SAS is 140+/- feet from wetlands. **Motion** by **A. Constan** to move the variance requested for 55 Spofford Road to allow the Soil Absorption System to be placed not less than 140' from wetland where 150' is required. The Variance is granted based on the system as designed is an improvement over the existing system and as designed the system is the best solution given the physical restrictions of the property. **Seconded** by **M. Mitsch**. Approved unanimously.

28 Olde Farm Road Variance – George Zambouras: **Ch 201-9-A(2):** Requires a 150 min. distance leach field to private well when perk <5 min/inch. Request Variance to allow the separation distance of 105 feet. Required due to existing site conditions, limited area and wetlands.

Ch 201-9-B(2): requires a 5 foot vertical separation from leach field to groundwater when perk <2min/inch. Request variance to allow separation distance of 4.4 feet. Required to allow for gravity system an to prevent excessive fill.

Ch 201-9-C(3): Requires 150 feet min. distance leach field to wetlands when perk <5 min/inch. Request variance to allow a separation distance of 51 feet. Required due to existing cite conditions, limited area and proximity to wetlands.

Ch 201-10: Garbage grinder – Requires system design to include garbage grinder. A variance is requested to allow a system design without garbage grinder.

Motion by **A. Constan** to move the variance be requested for 28 Olde Farms Rd to allow the Soil Absorption System to be placed not less than 105' feet from the owner's well and not less 51' from wetland where 150' is required and the variance is approved under the conditions that the system meets a 5' vertical distance from the leach field to groundwater. The Variance is granted upon the condition that a deed restriction is placed on the property that states a garbage grinder is prohibited from being installed. The Variance is granted based on the system as designed is an improvement over the existing system and as the system is the best solution given the physical restriction of the property. **Seconded** by **M. Mitsch**. Approved unanimously.

Waste Stream Task Force Update: **A. Constan** updated that they are working with Mello and Waste Management. WSTF is leaning towards going to bi-weekly recycling since there's a significant price decrease. Currently, Mello's and Waste management's bids come very close over 5

years. The Task force is in favor of moving forward with Mello. With Mello, pick up issues should decrease and since they are local, if missed, pick-up would be day of instead of next day. Also, Mello would work with our recycling center and cardboard would be free.

Test Pits at playgrounds: Weston & Sampson dug 7 test pits and they were testing for volatile organic compounds and didn't

find anything. They dug down to 8' and unofficially, we are good to go. We will receive the final report soon.

Failed Septic at West Village: George Zambouras will go to the site and measure space as soon as possible.

Pole Regulation Finalization:

§ 202-6. Protection of well areas.

1. New and replacement chemically treated utility poles, including but not limited to utility poles treated with preservatives, fungicides, insecticides and petroleum products, shall not be installed within-100 feet of any public or private water supply. In the case of utility poles treated with arsenical containing pesticides, such as chromate copper arsenate (CCA), the high ground water level shall be established for the pole location, and installation of the treated pole is prohibited if the pole will extend below the high ground water level.
2. The location of all private wells within 100 feet of any new or replacement chemically treated utility pole shall be identified on a map and submitted to the Board of Health (by the installer) prior to installation of the utility pole. Said map shall contain the location of the proposed utility pole installation, all wells with 100 feet of the proposed pole location, and sufficient street identifications and landmarks to enable the Board to identify the area of installation.
3. In the event that a chemically-treated utility pole cannot meet the installation requirements of §202-6(1), a non-chemically treated utility pole will be allowed. The utility pole installer must certify that the utility pole installed is not chemically treated to the BOH in writing.
4. The Board of Health may delay or prohibit installation of the proposed utility pole, or may require its removal, if it is installed prior to Board review, if the Board finds that the utility pole presents a potential threat to the public health or the environment.
5. Emergency replacements due to damage in the same location is exempt from this regulation.

Minutes: Will review during March meeting.

Bills: **Motion** by **A. Constan** moved to approve the February 7th, 2024 bills in the total of \$121,966.48. **Seconded** by **M. Mitsch**. Approved unanimously.

Director's Update: Opioid spending group will meet tomorrow, Feb 8th to see how they can spend the opioid funds.

Any new business arising in the past 48 hours: NONE

Adjourn : 8:31PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Yoonjin Lee

