



Town of Boxford
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

- January 11th, 2024

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

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** stated that he sent an email out to the Board with basically a draft contract that has the specifications that the WSTF has been working on and would like in the new contract. Some of those things are automated collection, bi annual metal pick up and paper shredding. With the automated collection, we will be moving to standardized barrels so once we settle on a vendor with the Board, the next step we work on will be pricing, in lieu of stickers. WSTF is working with the vendors to give two size options for barrels and possibly two different size barrels for recycling. WSTF will discuss the fees as to whether we will charge per barrel or annually. To get this contract in place, the WSTF is asking that BOH doesn't do an RFP. We don't legally have to do an RFP so we can work directly with a single vendor or multiple vendors. WSTF has been working with Waste Management on a 5-year extension and their weekly cost came in really good. For weekly trash and recycling, it's very attractive. During this time, we also received a quote from another vendor and they can offer bi-weekly recycling and that would save the town over \$500,000.00 over 5 years. There would be no bi-weekly cost savings with

Waste management because they use one truck for both trash and recycling. The WSTF is proposing to look into the bi-weekly option a little more and if we did this, we would possibly offer larger bins. WSTF reached out to towns that do bi-weekly and it works really well. There's some educational hiccups but it ends up working out. The three towns we spoke to said they didn't have additional trash tonnage by doing bi-weekly. In order to get a very detailed bid, the WSTF is asking the board to nominate two people from our board to work with Brendan and Matt to hammer out the final details in the bid so we can get an official quote from them. The Board voted on **A. Constan** and **H. Forand**. **A. Constan** asked the board to look at the contract within the next week and get comments back to him. Once updated, the document will be used to approach the vendor and try to hammer out a draft contract for the board to review.

Director's Update: **K. Longo** asked for the Board's consideration to lower abutters list from 500ft to either 250ft from property line or direct abutters for all variances. Conservation lowered theirs to 250ft. **K. Longo** stated that is the feedback from engineers. **R. Fahrner** asked if this regulation is hard coded and where the language for that is. **A. Constan** said that there should be a clause on the size of the project and **K. Longo** agreed. **K. Longo** stated it may have to go to town meeting and said she would talk with Ross in the Conservation department to see how they handled it. Another consideration **K. Longo** asked for is to increase the fee for septic design repair from \$100 to \$200. Feedback from engineers is that it's very inexpensive. **R. Fahrner** mentions maybe reviewing the fee structure. **A. Constan** asked where the fees go and **K. Longo** said general funds. The Narcan boxes are mounted at MASCO, one in the junior high, one in the high school and one in the cafeteria. **K. Longo** is having an opioid discussion next Thursday as to how the town will spend the Opioid funds. **K. Longo** believes it has to go to town meeting but they will discuss with Middleton and Topsfield about their plans, along with the Tri town nurse. Lastly, **K Longo** said that there are 6 new FLU cases in town as of today. **A. Constan** asked about COVID numbers and **K. Longo** stated that with at-home testing, reports have really dropped.

H. Forand asked about an update on the cell towers and **R. Fahrner** said he sent some emails and advised them of the feedback and they seemed very confused. Nothing has been done with it yet. **H. Forand** also asked about an update on Andrews Farm. **A. Constan** confirmed that the water was not shut off. **K. Longo** stated that a resident called to see if they could drill their own well. The Selectman's office reached out and asked if that would be possible and **K. Longo** said they would have to apply for lots of variances. **R. Fahrner** mentioned that there was something on Facebook stating the HOA expired so the homeowners couldn't do anything. **R. Fahrner** also stated that it's a public water supply so it's outside of the BOH's jurisdiction, it's DEPs. **M. Mitsch** stated that back in the 80's they thought it was going to be a good way to set up a public water system but it's just never worked out and the residents feel it's the town's fault. **R. Fahrner** stated that we learned from that and when the Willows was built, they mandated that it be a part of their HOA and it's owned by them. **M. Mitsch** mentioned that the residents should really hire an attorney who understands this stuff because they are going to need a licensed water treatment operator to run the system. **R. Fahrner** said they have a 3rd party running it all at the Willows and there are also alarms to alert them right away if there are any problems. **M. Mitsch** said maybe introducing the Willows people to the Andrews Farm residents would be a good idea. **A. Constan** stated all we

can do is provide guidance on the quality of the water and maybe get them in contact with the Willows but otherwise, we can't take it over.

R. Fahrner stated that they needed to finalize the pole regulations as well as the title V loophole and maybe reach out to town counsel to confirm there are no exceptions to a title v when changing ownership and updating our regulations to reflect that. **K. Longo** stated that only banks require a title v but if there's no bank involved, there's no one to enforce it.

R. Fahrner also mentioned NEMMC and how BOH was planning annual projects with them and it's time to maybe restart that. **K Longo** said she will send an email and NEMMC will be having their annual open house in May. **A. Constan** asked if the fee as changed and **K. Longo** said it's stayed about the same, roughly \$80,000. They do our town's catch basins for West, East, Town Hall and Boy Scout park. **K. Longo** will meet with Chris Olbrot to see what he recommends.

M. Mitsch states that the Stiles Pond committee should be able to start testing hopefully this Summer. If this works out, the Pond Bot would be helping the residents on Stiles Pond by treating their septic systems while also treating the pond. Their next meeting is the 29th of January so they will learn more. **A. Constan** asked if they will still have a warrant article and **M. Mitsch** said it will depend on the amount of money it will cost.

Any new business arising in the past 48 hours: NONE

Adjourn 8:09PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Yoonjin Lee

