



# Town of Boxford

## Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

July 21, 2021

**NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE - REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

**6:30PM**

**Virtual Participation Only**

**This meeting will be audio and video recorded  
To View: FIOS #39; Comcast #22; BCATv website  
For Directions to Participate via Zoom**

**Click Here**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86851772028?pwd=L1h6UFZHaGZKWTC2Q2hiQWl6cTJrQT09>

**ZOOM Meeting ID: 868 5177 2028**

**Passcode: 101922**

**Present:** Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Heather Forand, Rhonda Hodge, Kendell Longo, Kristin Kwiatek, Lance Cluster, Jim Scanlan, Bob Grasso, Louise Kress, Zoe Finch Totten, Mary Ellen Autiello, Karen Gladstone, Edwina Goodhue, Greg Kokorda

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM by D. Taylor

Roll call indicated that the following members of the Board of Health were present remotely: D. Taylor, R. Fahrner, A. Constan, H. Forand, R. Hodge

Introductions-New Board Member

The Board members introduced themselves along with the new Board member Rhonda Hodge.

### Variance 72 Spofford Road continuance -James Scanlan

Jim Scanlan of Scanlan Engineering was present for a continuance for 72 Spofford Road.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9, Section D. No leaching facility in those cases where the percolation rate is less than five (5) minutes per inch shall be installed within 150 feet of a well used as a potable water supply. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leach facility shall be located no less than 108 feet from the well serving the property.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9, Section E. No leaching facility in those cases where the percolation rate is less than five (5) minutes per inch shall be installed within 150 feet of a wetland resource area. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leach facility shall be no less than 109 feet from the wetlands. A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to allow the soil absorption system to be placed not less than 108 feet from the owners well and 109 feet from wetlands where 150 feet is required. This variance is granted based on the system is designed as an improvement over the existing system and as designed the system is the best solution given the physical restrictions of the property **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Variance 11 Upton Lane -Robert Grasso

Robert Grasso from Engineering Land Services was present to request variances to the Individual Sewage Disposal System Plan for 11 Upton Lane.

A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to accept the following four variance requests

310 CMR 15.211-Leach area setback to cellar wall from 20' required to 11' provided with a poly-liner

310 CMR 15.211-Leach area setback to property line from 10' required to 6' feet -side and 3' feet-front provided with a poly liner and property line to be staked prior to construction

310 CMR 15.211-Septic/pump tank setback to cellar wall from 10' required to 5' and 4' provided

310.CMR 15.255(5)-Leach area over dig from 5' required to 2' and 3.5' provided.

The variances 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 **R. Fahrner**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Variance 57 Stonecleave Road-Robert Grasso

Robert Grasso from Engineering Land Services was present to request variances to the Individual Sewage Disposal System Plan for 57 Stonecleave Road.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9, Section E. No leaching facility in those cases where the percolation rate is less than five (5) minutes per inch shall be installed within 100 feet of a wetland resource area. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leach facility shall be no less than 56 feet from the wetlands.

310 CMR 15.104-Percolation test required in proposed SAS area sent to lab analysis due to saturation.

A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to allow the soil absorption system to be placed not less than 56 feet from the wetland where 100 feet is required and also for the Board to accept the perc rate to be conducted by a soil lab analysis due to saturation in which the perc test could not be conducted on site. 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 **R. Fahrner**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Stiles Pond Algae

**D. Taylor** stated that two years ago the Board discussed the algae at Stiles Pond and they had tried to find a company that would test but the Cyanobacteria first had to be identified and a cell count needed. The DPH limit is 70,000 cells/ml before it is considered a health emergency. The Board was going to ask the Town for money for testing but the last two meetings the budget was closed. The meeting was opened for discussion from the floor. Zoe Finch Totten spoke about her symptoms from swimming, mentioned the camps and also the need for testing. Karen Gladstone stressed on monitoring and spoke about run off. **D. Taylor** said that fertilizer use around the pond is going to leach into it as well as organic materials that happen naturally and along with the warm weather there is going to be algae. Edwina Goodhue said she believes the biggest problem is from run off and does not feel safe swimming if the pond is not being tested. Louise Kress spoke about the past pond study and about the septic system upgrades around Stiles Pond. She stated that she does not perceive the algae as the blue green algae. The work at Camp Rotary was mentioned and the natural vegetation that was cleared causing a different nutrient load that was not addressed by the Conservation Commission. Mary Ellen Autiello spoke about the past testing done by Hillary Snook and offered her help to get testing done. **A. Constan** spoke about the previous testing on the pond and there was a Cyano bloom but it dispersed after a heavy rain. **A. Constan** stated he would support some testing but not sure how it would be funded or where the sampling would take place. **A. Constan** said he would like to see the Board address the issue in the upcoming year. **R. Fahrner** mentioned a two- tiered approach. One a testing program that leads to restricted use and two conducting a study on what is the cause of the blooms. **D. Taylor** agreed and mentioned the past pond studies that were performed and said that the Board could put together and outline and then start to think about an action plan.

### Waste Management Discussion

D. Taylor gave an overview from the last meeting on the motion made and on the possible enforcement to be decided upon during the current meeting. A. Constan stated that there have not been any major complaints since the last meeting. R. Fahrner said there was one good week after two months of back and forth with Waste Management. D. Taylor suggested to table the discussion until the next meeting. A. Constan said that they have made a difference since the last discussion and have not missed any streets. The Board agreed to keep the topic on the table and re-assess as they move forward. The Board discussed the motion passed over requesting additional equipment and tabled it for the next meeting. The last topic discussed was the list of holidays. D. Taylor suggested to stick to the contract. A. Constan was in favor of staying with the contract based on the outcome of the July 4 holiday. A **motion** was made by R. Fahrner to use the FY22 holiday list shown on the screen **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Director's Report

K. Longo had requested from the Board approval to issue a beaver trapping permit to remove the beaver activity on Lockwood Lane. A **motion** was made by R. Fahrner to approve an emergency beaver trapping permit to remove the beaver activity on Lockwood Lane around the culvert **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote. K. Longo mentioned a second request for a trapping permit but the resident lives in North Andover near the end of Glendale Road. K. Longo told the Board that the Selectmen's office is in favor of continuing online and mail in trash sticker service that the Health Department has been providing. The service began due to COVID. K. Longo asked the Board to consider approving added hours to the Health Department's Administrative Assistant position which would be paid using the American Rescue Plan Act funds. D. Taylor asked how long would the funding last. K. Longo stated that it could last up to five years. R. Fahrner mentioned that the Board should discuss revising the job description so there is not a problem in the future. R. Fahrner stated that the Health Department has not been well resourced within the town to address things such as dealing with the Pandemic, hazmat situations, communications, and coordinating with different offices. Both position's functions have grown. A. Constan said he would like to see the job description be added to in order to support the funds. A **motion** was made by R. Fahrner to increase Health Department Administrative Assistant position to 34 hours per week currently funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to mitigate the time spent dealing with pandemic related issues **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Goals for FY22

D. Taylor said there are some issues that have been put on hold and would like the Board to get back to addressing them. 1) Continue/Complete updating of septic system Boxford regulations. 2) Amendments to the soil moving regulation. 3) New non-town contracted trash /recycling regulation. 4) New regulation and response protocols for hazmat and asbestos. 5) Reopen the issue of Boxford Town Nurse to replace the VNA.

### Board Reorganization

A motion was made by A. Constan for R. Fahrner to become the Chair of the Board of Health and D. Taylor become Vice Chair and COVID liaison for the minimum of the next calendar year seconded by H. Forand. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### Adjourn 8:45pm

With no further business, on a motion made by A. Constan, seconded by R. Fahrner, the Board of Health voted **unanimously** with a roll call vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek  
Minutes Secretary