



# Town of Boxford

## Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

September 01, 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/88288067591?pwd=NjRnb0xmTWdvRFdkb3VjcXRDTURIdz09>**

**ZOOM Meeting**

**ID: 882 8806 7591**

**Passcode: 176095**

**Present:** Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Rhonda Hodge, Kendell Longo, Matt Coogan Lance Cluster, Jim Scanlan, Brian Gregory, Karen Gladstone, Mary Ellen Autiello, Edwina Goodhue

**Absent:** Heather Forand

**Meeting opened at 6:30 PM by R. Fahrner**

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

The new Town Administrator Matt Coogan introduced himself to the Board

## Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the May 25, 2021 meeting. A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** to accept the minutes, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Minutes were reviewed from the June 22, 2021 meeting. A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to accept the minutes, **seconded** by **D. Taylor**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

## Bills and Discussion/Update Waste Management

**A. Constan** told the Board that he has had weekly meetings with Waste Management to discuss ongoing issues with trash pick-ups. **R. Fahrner** asked the Board about the payment of the bill. **D. Taylor** made a motion to subtract \$1900.00 for breach of contract for not picking up within twenty-four hours of being notified **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

**A. Constan** relayed to the Board from Waste Management that out of all the Towns in the immediate area that they service, Boxford is the only Town that follows their own holiday schedule not their schedule. The holidays they proposed to change are during the winter months in which snow storms would possibly delay pick-up into the weekend. **D. Taylor** commented on the 570 missed pick-ups on the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.

**D. Taylor** mentioned to the Board that the Recycling committee has offered funds to send out a Town wide trash flyer.

**R. Fahrner** reviewed with the Board the July bills payable totaling \$67,670.37 A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to accept the total bills of \$67,670.37, **seconded** by **D. Taylor**. Approved **unanimously** with a roll call vote.

**R. Fahrner** reviewed with the Board the August bills payable totaling \$5,200.00 A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** to accept the total bills of \$5,200.00, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** with a roll call vote.

## Variance 316 Ipswich Road -James Scanlan

Jim Scanlan of Scanlan Engineering was present for a variance request for 316 Ipswich Road. The Board of Health voted at their meeting on September 1, 2021 to grant the following requested variances to the Individual Sewage Disposal System Plan for 316 Ipswich Road, dated 8/12/21 and submitted to this office on 8/23/21.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9B. To allow the septic system to be installed less than 100' from a wetland. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leaching facility shall be located no less than 73 feet to wetlands.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-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 well used as a potable water supply. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leaching facility shall be located no less than 73 feet to wetlands.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9(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. Specifically, the Board of Health voted that the leaching facility shall be located no less than 84 feet to well on site and 101 feet to abutting well.

The Board granted this variance conditionally based on:

The system designed is an improvement over the existing system and is the best solution given the physical restrictions on the property.

A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to allow the soil absorption system to meet with four variances 1) A 100 foot setback between the wetlands and the SAS is required where this property will provide 73 feet. 2) A 150 foot setback between wetlands and the SAS where 73 feet will be provided 3) A 150 foot setback between the well and the SAS where this property will provide an 84 foot distance between the well and the on sight well and 101 feet between the abutting well and the SAS. 4) A 100 foot setback between the well and the SAS where the property will provide 84 feet. The variances granted upon the conditions that the wetland delineation shown on the plan is confirmed by the Conservation Commission or the Conservation Administrator. The Variances are based on the system designed is an improvement over the existing system and is the best solution given the physical restrictions on the property **seconded** by **D. Taylor**. **A. Constan** amended the variance that a Nitrogen reducing alternative technology is included in the design. Approved **unanimously** with a roll call vote.

### Algae/Stiles Pond Update

**R. Fahrner** gave an update on the algae issue at Stiles Pond and said at current date there is not a testing plan in place or a response protocol to the appearance of algae in the pond. **R. Fahrner** reached out to Solitude Lake Management that cleans ponds of potential toxic algae and performs routine testing. **R. Fahrner** spoke with them but now is unable to get a response from them or many other companies that perform testing. **D. Taylor** said it would be good to get counts and that Hilary Snook's team from University of New Hampshire set up a monitoring program for North Andover. **R. Fahrner** spoke to the listeners about inflow, outflow, and the surrounding areas of the pond. He said bacteria needs phosphorus and Nitrogen which are in fertilizer that is used on lawns and it is the run off grows algae. Beaver dams that slow down flow deplete Nitrogen which is a balance. Currently there is no sufficient data where sources of contamination might be coming from. **A. Constan** spoke about monitoring for safety and risk for using the pond. Also, to determine if it is being driven by a nutrient run off and the cost of doing

that as well as treating the pond. **R. Fahrner** also stated protocol to respond to the data. **D. Taylor** said treating and killing the algae will kill the pond. **R. Fahrner** opened the discussion to the floor. Resident Karen Gladstone commented on the concern for overall management of the pond. **A. Constan** spoke about formerly being on the Lakes, Ponds, and Streams Committee and commented about whether or not the committee if still around could possibly help maintain the pond.

### Director's Report and COVID

**K. Longo** said there were no new COVID cases reported to her and mentioned the mask issue to the Board. **R. Fahrner** stated that the State Commissioner and Governor Baker are working towards mask mandates in school for vaccinated and unvaccinated children until October 1, 2021. **D. Taylor** **motioned** that the Board of Health **supports** the mandate by DESE and the Commissioner of Education of having a masking policy that all students K-12 shall be masked until at least October 1, 2021 **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote. **D. Taylor** asked the Board if they want to consider reinstituting an indoor mask policy for public spaces in town. **A. Constan** is not in favor of a masking policy at this time. **R. Hodge** had Boxford resident Michelle Perry a Lawrence General ICU Nurse Practitioner comment on the increased rate of COVID since May in vaccinated and unvaccinated people in Lawrence. **R. Hodge** stated that the hospital has quite a few vaccinated COVID patients. **D. Taylor** said the numbers in the Tri Town are as high as they were back in October and November when the surge began. **A. Constan** said that if the Board mandates masks at what point will people not have to wear them because there will only be herd immunity through a highly vaccinated population. **A. Constan** stated that the mandate will put the two stores in a tough position with patrons that do not want to comply. **K. Longo** said that eighty percent of Town Hall employees are vaccinated and that is what the schools are trying to reach to lift the mask mandate on October 1, 2021. **D. Taylor** said that also mandated is that the twenty percent not vaccinated that will continue to wear masks. A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** to reinstate the mask wearing mandate from May of 2020 **seconded** by **R. Hodge**. A roll call vote was taken. **R. Hodge** aye, **R. Fahrner** aye to the amended mandate, **A. Constan** nay, and **D. Taylor** aye. Approved.

### COVID Other

**D. Taylor** stated that the crowd this year at the Apple Festival will probably be high and people will be coming in from other town and cities. The people running such events over the last eighteen months have been very receptive to the concerns and instructions from the Board of Health. **D. Taylor** said there should be social distancing but if that is not possible there should be signs posted that recommend the wearing of masks. A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** that the Board strongly recommends the Apple Festival organizers require masking of the general public and the booth holders **seconded** by **A. Constan** for discussion. **A. Constan** asked if the

State has changed any recommendations for outdoor gatherings such as concerts or sporting events. Moving in to the new surge, **D. Taylor** said that recommendations are now left to the heads of the towns, cities, and local boards. Brian Gregory from the Boxford Historical Society Board of Trustees thanked the Board of Health, briefly explained the day's events of the festival and safety protocols. The **motion** was **seconded** by **R. Fahrner**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### **Other Business**

**K. Longo** stated that the Tri-Town received the Public Health Excellence Award. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Tri Town is almost completed with Topsfield being the lead. The public health nurse is still working for the Tri-Town but is still currently being paid by Topsfield. **K. Longo** told the Board that she has been in touch with CVS for a Flu clinic.

### **Amendment To Town Code 205, Earth Removal/Filling Project**

Tabled until next meeting.

### **Adjourn 8:45pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Kristin Kwiatek**  
Minutes Secretary