



# Town of Boxford

## Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

September 29, 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**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83475925303?pwd=RWEvUUUpqZGsrZlJyOGZEcWVBYUNhQT09>

### **ZOOM Meeting**

**ID: 834 7592 5303**

**Passcode: 166947**

**Present:** Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Heather Forand, Kendell Longo, Lance Cluster, Frank Marshall, Mark O'Hara

**Absent:** Rhonda Hodge

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, H. Forand

## Announcements

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday October 23, 2021 at Masconomet High School from 9:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

There will be a Flu Clinic at the Council on Aging run by the VNA on Wednesday October 27, 2021 from 8:00am-12:00pm

## Bills

R. Fahrner reviewed with the Board the September bills payable totaling \$62,816.08 A **motion** was made by D. Taylor to accept the total bills with the exception of the invoice for \$1,650.00 **seconded** by A. Constan. **Approved** unanimously with a roll call vote.

## Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the July 21, 2021 meeting. A **motion** was made by A. Constan to accept the minutes, **seconded** by H. Forand. **Approved** unanimously by a roll call vote.

Minutes were reviewed from the September 01, 2021 meeting. A **motion** was made by H. Forand to accept the minutes, **seconded** by A. Constan. **Approved** unanimously by a roll call vote.

## Variance 15 King Richard Drive

Mark O'Hara from O'Hara Engineering was present to request variances for 15 King Richard Drive. A **motion** was made by A. Constan to approve the following variances. The new septic system where 50 feet is required from wetlands will be greater than or equal to 35 feet. The distance from the abutters well where 100 feet is required the new system will be greater than or equal to 85 feet and maximized to increase that distance as feasible. The variance from the owners well where 100 feet is required, the variance to be greater than 85 feet. The system will include a Nitrogen reduction Presby system and is an improvement upon the existing system **seconded** by H. Forand. **Approved** unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

The Board discussed and made changes to D. Taylor's drafted amendment of Town Code 205.

A **motion** was made by D. Taylor to accept Town Code 205 as amended **seconded** by A. Constan. **Approved** unanimously by a roll call vote.

### Middleton Road Beaver Permit Request-Chris Olbrot

D. Taylor wanted to know if the DPW had thought of using a beaver deceiver to avoid trapping and killing the beaver because removing the beaver in its natural environment where it could be doing some good based on the Stiles Pond discussion. R. Fahrner mentioned that there is however a different impact being a road. Chris Olbrot had said that they could currently only get 25 percent of the culvert open and once repaired they will install a beaver deceiver. D. Taylor stated that they prefer not to trap but if they have to that is the best they can do. A **motion** was made by A. Constan to approve the beaver trapping permit request by Boxford DPW and Chris Olbrot for Middleton Road **seconded** by H. Forand. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### COVID/Director's Report

K. Longo made a request to the Board to consider lifting the mask mandate. She stated that Boxford Town Hall employees are 100% vaccinated. D. Taylor presented statistics that showed Middleton school aged children vaccination rates as being much lower than Boxford or Topsfield. D. Taylor read aloud the Commissioner of Education's ruling on masks which is not what the Masconomet Superintendent had written. D. Taylor asked the Board if a simple average should be used and how is masking of unvaccinated students going to be enforced. H. Forand said it is going to be almost impossible to manage the enforcement of masks in schools. D. Taylor said that the Board should give guidance but also put conditions on what the schools are saying they are going to do with regarding masks. Anything the Board decides upon would be based on the findings of the Commissioner of Education. A. Constan said if Masconomet applies and gets approval from DESE then he is in favor of amending the Board's order for the school based on the guidance of DESE which seems to be masks for the unvaccinated. R. Fahrner stated that the Board should modify their stance to be consistent with DESE and also reiterate that all students should wear masks as it is safer and strongly recommend that the school identifies a policy that maintains confidentiality and that unvaccinated students will wear masks. D. Taylor stated that if the Board agrees with DESE, he will write a letter to Superintendent Mike Harvey. A **motion** was made by D. Taylor that he will prepare a letter with final approval by the Board **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote. D. Taylor next discussed with the Board statistics released by Massachusetts on breakthrough cases. In one week there were 11,137 in which 4,378 were breakthrough cases. Based on the numbers we are heading into a surge of cases and it is a new variant. D. Taylor said he felt it would be extremely premature to lift the Town's mask mandate and to stop now would be foolish and irresponsible. H. Forand attended the Apple Festival and commented that everyone was compliant with the protocols of gloves and masks. D. Taylor mentioned to the Board regarding the Halloween event in Town that he recommended the people running the booths wear masks and keep the groups to about 6 people.

### Other Business

A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** to accept the Weston & Sampson contract for 2022 **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

A **motion** was made by **D. Taylor** to have **K. Longo** sign the Weston & Sampson contract for the Board **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

**A. Constan** updated the Board that a second attempt to do sample borings for Arsenic at the Cole School Cargill ball fields. The first attempt there was soil compaction. The results came back below the threshold. **A. Constan** said he had not seen the data but there was nothing that spiked the threshold that required closing the ball fields.

**R. Fahrner** said that there will be Cyanobacteria testing on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00

### Board Reorganization

**R. Fahrner** nominated **D. Taylor** as Chairman to the Board and **A. Constan** as Vice chair **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

### 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