



Town of Boxford

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

February 16, 2022

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; BCAT Tv website

For Directions to Participate via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86304338162?pwd=VjlieDVWZ0Z3SzhFZlVyNXViQjRxQT09>

ID: 863 0433 08162

Passcode: 408894

Present: Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Heather Forand, Rhonda Hodge, Kendell Longo, Kristin Kwiatek, bcattv99, Jim Scanlan, Jay Polakiewicz, Elizabeth Palmer, Jennifer Wieckowski, J. Maynard, Laura Valzania, Peter Delaney, Scott Cameron, Susan Rothschild-Lambert, Ted Merchant, Bob Dillon, Cindy Fiore, Elisa Sanders, Carol Hubbard, Caroline Sommer, James Riter, Christi Collins, Denise, Desi, Donna, Elise Everest, Brian D., Brian Thompson, Briana Erikson, Caitlin Merullo, Carmelo, Dave Valzania, Evangelea Kelly, Gina, Hilary B., Jaclyn, Jeff Horrigan, John Shirley, Julia Lobel, Julianne Flynn, Karin Rando, Kate Murphy, Kathleen Scarpato, Kathy Harlor, Alicia Glynn, Amanda Lurvey, Sharon Bari,

Shauna Jamroz, Susan Koniares, Thaya Puglisi, Tiffany Ray, Sara Guilmette, Michelle Fallis, Michelle Orfanos, Michelle Palazzolo, M. Randall, Rene Schildkraut, Richard Viveiros, Mark Burns, Lisa Salisbury, Laura Turco, Lynne Greenwood, Mark Belanger, Melissa, Michael White, Kristi Allard, Lancaster, Laura Gecoya, Kimberly Nguyen, Kristen Clancy.

Meeting Opened at 6:30pm 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

Announcements

Covid test kits are available to residents at the Health Department office from 9:00-3:00pm Monday through Thursday. Four test kits per household free of charge.

Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the January 19, 2022 meeting. A **motion** was made by R. Fahrner to accept the minutes as amended, **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Minutes were reviewed from the January 26, 2022 meeting. A **motion** was made by A. Constan to accept the minutes, **seconded** by R. Fahrner. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Bills

D. Taylor reviewed with the Board the February bills payable totaling \$65,039.48. A **motion** was made by R. Fahrner to accept the total bills of \$65,039.48 **seconded** by A. Constan. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Variance 181 Washington Street

James Polakiewicz from Hancock Engineering was present to request the following variances for 181 Washington Street.

Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9D. 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 system shall be located no less than 100 feet from the abutting wells. Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-10. All new systems shall be designed to accommodate a garbage grinder. Specifically, the Board

voted to allow the system to be designed without a garbage grinder. The applicant shall record this at the Registry of Deeds.

A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to grant the variances for 181 Washington Street for reducing the SAS size contingent upon a deed restriction being placed that prohibits the use of a garbage grinder on the system in addition reducing the distance to the well to 100 feet where 150 feet is required. This is approved based on the fact that the system is an improvement over the existing system **seconded** by **R. Hodge**. Approved with a roll call vote **Constan** aye, **Forand** aye, **Hodge** aye, **Fahrner** aye.

Variance 89 Willow Road

Jim Scanlan from Scanlan engineering was present to request a variance for 89 Willow Road. Boxford Board of Health Regulation 201-9E. 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 system shall be located no less than 120 feet from a wetland.

A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to grant the variance request at 89 Willow Road to reduce the distance to wetlands to 120 feet where 150 feet is required contingent on the marking confirmation of the wetlands by the Conservation Commission. The variance is approved as it is an improvement in the overall system **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Willows Earth Moving Application

The Board received a preliminary application asking for a permit to move materials on and off the Willows development. **D. Taylor** provided slides to the Board with questions for discussion. An Earth Removal and Restoration plan has been submitted as required and **D. Taylor** asked the Board if they felt an outside consultant should review the plan to ensure Regulation 205 is followed. Engineer Scott Cameron was present at the meeting and asked the Board if they would consider making their inquiries to the Town's third-party consultant TEC who provided a peer review of the Earth moving and erosion portions of the plan for the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board. The Board will continue discussion at the next meeting.

Treated Utility Pole Discussion, Action

D. Taylor provided the Board with a draft of suggested changes to the regulation for discussion. Two of the primary changes would be the increased distance from the treated pole placement to the wells and to request high ground water level where the treated pole would be placed. **D. Taylor** stated one of the primary problems is trying to enforce the regulation for replacement poles. The Board members commented on possible changes and will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Trash Task Force discussion

It was proposed that two members of the Board of Health be a part of the trash task force committee that will include regular meetings. **A. Constan** will be a member on the committee. **K. Longo** will also be involved as a non-voting member. Michael White from the Finance Committee commented on what being on the committee might entail. **D. Taylor** stated that the second voting member from the Board should be decided upon soon and that other Health Board members could also attend to give input.

2021 Annual Town Report Assignments

R. Fahrner- Arbovirus and Vector based disease.

D. Taylor- Covid

A. Constan- Trash and Recycling

COVID

D. Taylor announced the covid case update with January hitting a new high, February matching last year at the same time, and March possibly matching last year as well. The first mask order was passed on May 02, 2020 and lifted on May 29, 2021. The current mask order went into effect September 01, 2021. There were 9 deaths in Boxford from Covid as of January 2022, 16% reported infection rate which is about half the rate of all of Essex County. **D. Taylor** suggested making a decision on lifting the mask order at the next meeting. **A. Constan** commented that the main purpose for wearing masks was to decrease transmission of the virus but does not agree with the mask optional argument. **A. Constan** stated some key reasons the order was put in effect such as there was not a vaccine, hospitalization rates were increasing and positivity rates were increasing. In comparison, **A. Constan** mentioned the current high vaccination rate in Boxford, the hospitals no longer exceeding capacity, and the infection rate dropping for vaccinated individuals. **R. Hodge** mentioned with the numbers going down, the potential of the schools lifting their mandate, along with the data **A. Constan** provided **R. Hodge** felt it made sense to lift the mandate. **H. Forand** stated to be in favor of lifting the mandate and felt the general population does not appropriately wear masks. **R. Fahrner** emphasized that if masks are worn properly it reduces the likely hood of transmission. **R. Fahrner** commented on the poorly done studies which is a disservice to data. **D. Taylor** spoke on the different types of masks and the percentages of protection when worn properly. A motion was made by **A. Constan** that the Boxford Board of Health rescind the emergency order for a mask mandate effective following tonight's Board of Health meeting of February 16, 2022 **seconded** by **R. Fahrner**. With a motion on the floor **D. Taylor** said if it passes it would then be unnecessary for the Board to grant a waiver to the schools because there would no longer be a mask mandate. It would now be up to the schools to file with DESE for a waiver. Comments were then taken from the audience. The motion was approved with a roll call vote **Hodge aye, Forand aye, Constan aye, Fahrner aye, Taylor aye.**

A. **Constan** said the recommendation would be for those students that are sick that they stay home from school. If they develop coughing or flu like symptoms while at school, they should visit the nurse to be assessed, and those people that have high risk family members at home it would be recommended that their students optionally wear masks and be taught how to wear them properly.

Adjourn 8:40pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek
Minutes Secretary