



**Town of Boxford
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health**

April 05, 2023

Present: Richard Taylor, Alex Constan, Richard Fahrner, Heather Forand, Kendell Longo, Kristin Kwiatek

Absent: Rhonda Hodge

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by D. Taylor

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the February 27, 2023 meeting. **Motion** by A. Constan to accept minutes, **seconded** by R. Fahrner. Approved **unanimously**.

Bills: Bills were signed

5G Radiation Discussion

D. Taylor informed the Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals, at their last meeting approved the installation of 5G antenna on an existing tower that has caused concern from some residents over the safety of the electro magnetic fields that they generate. D. Taylor stated that if the Board had evidence of a potential health hazard, they could shut down the tower but would be sued shortly after. A. Constan spoke about NTP the National Toxicology Program and the lead investigator on the study done in 2018. A. Constan does not believe that there is hard conclusive evidence but believes that the EPA and the FCC will be following up on it in the next few years. A. Constan stated that Board would be in a tough position on preventing the placement of the tower without hard evidence. R. Fahrner read aloud to the Board the headline from the NTP study. H. Forand questioned the effects from radiation given off by the tower relating to proximity. Resident and alternate ZBA member David Valzania, present via Zoom spoke to the Board on his concerns of the potential dangers of the 5G tower. D. Taylor stated that the Health Board could suggest to the ZBA that along with the requirement of testing frequency and output, the permitting could include it's enforcement by the Building Inspector. R. Fahrner mentions the variables of risk which would be intensity, time, and risk.

A motion was made by H. Forand for D. Taylor to draft a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals recommending that they stress compliance through the building inspector and that they keep the current level of frequency on the tower the same seconded by R. Fahrner Approved unanimously.

Trash/Recycling-Updates-Plans

The Board discussed trash sticker color to change and a buy- back program at Town Hall. They also mentioned the barrel distribution to be in June along with an informational flyer. There will also be a day or two for old bin pick-up in July or August. The Board agreed on the wording on the barrels and D. Taylor and A. Constan will provide a presentation at Town meeting.

State Well Regulation Suggestions, Discussion

D. Taylor said every couple of years the State sends out suggestions for regulations on private wells. The State is strongly suggesting that the town requires PFAS testing for new wells and new houses. The cost for PFAS testing would be expensive. After discussion the Board unanimously voted to highly recommend to test for PFAS.

The Willows

Deed Corrections

The deed has to be approved by the ZBA and upon review, they found deficiencies and asked the Health Board for their input. D. Taylor stated that there were no manuals with standard operating procedures for the waste water treatment plant. The Board has not seen a plan for the pool which is State law and it was not mentioned in the deed. A letter was written to the ZBA from the Board stating that there will be no Occupancy Permits until they are in compliance.

Utility Poles /Wells

The Board talked about the utility poles that will be installed for power which will then go underground. The wells there are all potable and the Board wants to make sure that the poles will be over 100 feet from them.

Pesticide Use

The Board discussed the use of pesticides around all the wells at the Willows. D. Taylor will write something up on pesticides for the Board before a decision is made prohibiting them within 100 feet from any well.

National Grid, Utility Poles

D. Taylor mentioned to the Board after being contacted by National Grid that he will write a letter reminding them that it is a law that all treated poles must be installed greater than 50 feet from any well.

COVID Update

Cases are decreasing.

Director's Report

There will be a Spring newsletter and **K. Longo** asked the Board if they would like to include information on the new trash changes. **D. Taylor** suggested to include a couple sentences with more information to follow.

K. Longo stated that through the coalition groups that they were a part of, Boxford received through insurance reimbursement three checks totaling \$6,144.00. She wanted to have them put in to the revolving account but Finance told her it had to go into the Town's general fund.

K. Longo and **H. Forand** completed a two -day mental health training. **H. Forand** commented that it was very interactive and engaging.

Chair's Comments

D. Taylor announced that he will not be running for re-election for the Board of Health. **D. Taylor** said that during COVID he did not mind all the work but was very discouraged by the science ignorant people that believed everything they read on the internet. He stated that the current board was one of the best boards ever, all experienced scientists and health workers. **D. Taylor** said he was tired of people yelling and screaming on their meetings when the Board was trying to protect the elderly population. He stated he has written over one hundred papers in peer review journals, books, patents and was disgusted that people were saying that he and the board did not know what they were talking about. He stated that he has been in continuous service for the town for 40 years, 11 terms on the Health Board and 22 years on the Council on Aging along with many committees. He said he will miss being on the board and would like to be a continuous source and possibly stay on the Stiles Pond committee.

Adjourn 9:00pm

The next meeting date to be determined and with no further business there was a **motion** made by **R. Fahrner**, seconded by **H. Forand** the Board voted **unanimously** to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek
Minutes Secretary

