

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

Present: Holliston Board of Health (BoH): Jay Leary (*Chairperson*)
Peter Liffiton (*Vice-Chairperson*)
Josh Mann (*member*)

Scott Moles, *Health Director/Agent*
Ann Adams, *Health Department Clerk*

Jay Leary opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.
Scott Moles read the Remote Participation Statement.

Board of Health roll call: Jay Leary – Present, Peter Liffiton – present, Josh Mann – present

Public Comment: None

COVID-19 Update: There is one active case (reported to the State) of COVID-19 in Town. The cumulative total is 3138 cases.

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: Scott sent an email to the National Center for Health Statistics regarding Holliston residents participating in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, but has received no new information.

Mosquitoes & Ticks

- Scott sent the Board the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Arbovirus Surveillance Report.
- There were 21 positives mosquitoes tested for West Nile Virus, but none in abutting towns so Holliston's risk factor doesn't rise.
- There are no mosquitoes tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis.
- Nothing new regarding ticks.

465 Hopping Brook Road – Underground Injection Control

- Scott described the Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit being applied for by Grady Consulting for Pharmacann at 465 Hopping Brook Road.
- The plan is designed to inject 8,000 gallons per day (GPD) of process water from their marijuana hydroponic growing facility.
- Scott has spoken to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Title 5 Engineer Claire Golden, and the DEP well hydrogeologist Joe Cerutti regarding this UIC process.
- Scott has enlisted Paul Saulnier, P.E. to assist in the review of this plan.
- The permit and fee still need to be established.
- The Board of Health are requested to approve the plan, but the State is who will permit the process.
- This UIC technology is being installed in Foxboro for a kidney dialysis facility, but it is not for 8,000 GPD.

- The Board wants to understand the technology better as described by a DEP expert and not the applicant. They have concerns of the impact of injecting process water into the ground. They think there is much information required before they are able to make an informed decision.
- The Board wants the Planning Boards to weigh in on this apparent change in the permitted process. Pharmacann original permit had them growing marijuana using the septic system they installed in 2020, and now they are changing their process. This could be a violation of that permit. The Planning Board needs to be involved in this change.
- The Board wants to understand how the Water Department sees this change in their manufacturing process where they are using significantly more water than previously stated.
- The Board wants to know about Foxboro's experience with this technology before they decide what to do in Holliston.
- Jay is concerned about endocrine disrupters in pharmaceutical waste water.
- The Board members agree in the need for significantly more information on this request.
- Scott will contact the various departments and experts and get back to the Board.

39 Locust Street- septic system upgrade concerns

- There are 2 concerns with this septic upgrade: a property encroachment and a previously allowed access.
- One abutter disputed a property line for tree removal, and a survey will be performed before any clearing happens.
- A second neighbor had previously been allowed to drive on the gravel drive to put her camper in her back yard twice a year. The owner of 39 Locust Street is allowing the septic pipe to be lowered with a clean out so that his neighbor may continue to use this access. There is no expectation that this arrangement will continue if 39 Locust Street changes ownership.

22 Avon Street –septic system upgrade drainage concerns

- The septic system upgrade at 22 Avon Street is causing flooding for the abutters at 38 Avon Street and 80 Grove Street. These owners have called the Health Department describing the water problems.
- Straw wattles were installed for erosion control.
- Scott will meet with the owner and installer tomorrow to ensure resolution of any issues.
- Scott will send the Board the approved plan for 22 Avon Street septic upgrade.

40 High Street – fee waiver requested

- The First Baptist Church has requested a Form A fee waiver for the Eagle Scout project of building a pergola for shade at the Church.
- The Board was amenable to approving the fee waiver request but require a letter from the Form A applicant requesting the waiver as a matter of policy.
- Scott will notify the applicant.

Rooster complaint

- The Health Department received a complaint regarding a noisy rooster that Scott has forwarded to Cherie Hafford, Chairperson of the Agricultural Commission (AgCom).
- Scott will be attending the September AgCom meeting.
- Cherie requested information regarding chicken farms in Town. Scott has explained that the Barn Book information is gathered by the Animal Inspectors and given to the Massachusetts

Department of Animal Resources, Mike Cahill. Cherie can reach out to Mike to discuss that information.

State of Emergency

- Governor Healy has declared a State of Emergency in response to the rapidly rising number of migrant families arriving in Massachusetts in need of shelter and services.
- This will impact Holliston in that migrant families are arriving in Framingham causing a shortage of shelters. Scott will need to find other options for housing should the need arise.

Minutes: Jay made a motion to approve the BoH meeting minutes from July 25, 2023. Peter seconded. Roll Call: Jay Leary-Abstained, Peter Liffiton-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye. Passed.

Bills: none

Board Comment: Jay asked about:

- **799 Washington Street - Gulf Station:** Scott and Town Planner Karen Sherman spoke with the owner of Record Genie, 785 Washington Street, who is considering purchasing the Gulf Station. Jay wants the 799 Washington Street building secured by a specified date or have the owner come before the Board. Scott will reach out to the owner again, and keep the Board apprised.
- **90 Brooks Street:** Zoning Enforcer Mark Kaferlein sent a letter to the owner, copying the Board regarding the change of use request.
- **Holliston Woods Septic Odor:** Scott said there was a break in the high pressure line so only one of the two zones was functioning, causing the odor. The problem should be resolved, but large amount of rain isn't helping the smell. Jay wants Scott to send the complainant Laurie Woodward a letter explaining the repair and confirming her concerns are resolved. Jay doesn't want the resident to feel abandoned.
- **81 Wingate Road** owner crushed his 4 year old Eljen soil absorption field not paying attention to its location during backyard construction. Eric Dickinson, system designer is developing the plan for the repair.
- Jay believes **COVID-19** is spiking again and wants a vaccination clinic. Scott said the fall flu vaccine will have a COVID-19 component. There is a flu clinic scheduled for October 14th.

**Jay made a motion to adjourn the BoH meeting at 7:49 PM. Josh seconded.
Roll Call: Jay Leary-Aye, Peter Liffiton-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye. Passed.**

Respectfully:
Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 8-22-23