

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## January 19, 2021

### Teleconference: 7:00 PM

**Present:** Holliston Board of Health (BoH): Laura Nolan (*Chair*)  
Thomas Ellis (*Vice-Chair*)  
Josh Mann (*member*)

Scott Moles, *Health Director and Agent*  
Ann Adams, *Health Department Clerk*  
Lisa Deering, *Health Department Clerk*

Laura Nolan, BoH Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Scott Moles, Health Director, read the Remote Participation Statement.

Board of Health Roll Call: Laura Nolan-Present, Thomas Ellis-Present, Josh Mann-Present

**Public Comment:** None

**Bills:** The following bills were reviewed and approved:

Salmon VNA COVID-19, paid through Region 4 a/b	\$3,000.00
Salmon VNA COVID-19, paid through CARES grant	\$3,365.00
Total	\$6,365.00
Stantec, Covanta Compliance Officer	\$2,392.00

**Laura made a motion to approve the bills as listed above. Thomas seconded.**

**Roll call: Laura Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed**

**BoH Meeting Minutes: Laura made a motion to approve the January 5, 2021 BoH Minutes.**

**Thomas seconded. Roll call: Laura Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed**

**FY'22 Budget Preparation:** The BoH will meet with the Finance Committee March 16, 2021 at 8:05 pm, the same night as our BoH meeting. The BoH meeting can be moved earlier to facilitate transitioning to the Finance Committee meeting.

The FY'22 budget should include additional clerical hours, to make both Health Department clerk 30 hours/week benefited positions. The documentation for justifying increasing the clerical hours was sent to the Board for their review and they support the additional clerk hours.

#### 7:15 PM Marshall Street Landfill Solar Array

Present:

- Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Integrated Solutions
- Rennie Friedman, Director Project Development Sol Systems
- Rob Kenneally, Kleinfelder engineer providing oversight for the Town

Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Integrated Solutions, presented the proposed Marshall Street Landfill Solar Array to the Board. Beth explained that a solar array must meet 3 criteria to be successful:

economic, environmental and educational. She outlined how this Marshall Street Landfill project met all three of those criteria.

Rennie Friedman, Sol Systems, explained the engineering, construction, and possible timelines depending on the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) review timing. The installation will be on ballasts not pilings, so it will not penetrate the landfill cap. The solar panels will be fixed facing due south. The entire project will be surrounded by a 7' high chain-link fence.

Josh asked about the sound generated by the array that might disrupt residents. Rennie explained that there would be 3 sources of any sound: the transformer, inverters and battery storage air conditioning unit, each emitting a low hum that would not be audible 100' away at Marshall Street.

Josh asked about the construction disruption to the neighbors. Rennie explained how they planned to minimize the any disruption to the neighbors:

- During the first month of construction, there will be a week where 10 tractor trailers trucks will deliver the pre-cast ballasts and panels.
- Using pre-cast ballasts eliminates concrete trucks on Marshall Street.
- After those delivery trucks, there will be no further large trucks, just worker vehicles during the remainder of the installation.
- The ballasts are installed using a forklift, not needing a crane.

January 25, 2021 this presentation of the Solar Array project will be given to the Select Board. There is a virtual open house for the public January 27, 2021 from 7 to 9 PM. The Marshall Street surrounding neighbors were mailed invitations to the open house to have their questions answered.

TRC did the geotechnical work. Kleinfelder did the peer review and oversight of the project. The DEP will be sure the integrity of the landfill cap is maintained.

Laura asked about traffic to the Array when it is in operation:

- Rennie explained Sol System will visit the Marshall Street site 4 times a year for operations and maintenance, and up to 6 times to mow the vegetation.
- Sol Systems is responsible for the 10' around the panels.
- The Town will access the site for cap inspections.
- Fire Department and DPW will be instructed in access to the batteries for fire suppression.
- The street sweepings will no longer be put on top of the cap, but compost can be.
- Maintenance of the cap is still the Town's responsibility.

Fiscally the Town will receive a fixed income from the solar panels energy production. Sol Systems are incentivized to keep the solar panels working optimally as their income is dependent on the panel's efficiency. There will be a real-time monitoring of the system.

Laura asked about decommissioning of the array after the 25 year contract period. Rennie explained that there are 3 options:

- 1) Continue the current lease/maintenance arrangement with Sol System.
- 2) The Town can purchase the array and maintain it themselves.
- 3) Sol Systems can remove the array and return the site to the original state.

Sol System will put up a decommissioning bond to ensure there are funds for decommissioning (if that is the choice) in the unlikely event that something happens to Sol System.

Construction wise, the critical path is the connection to the Eversource system. The electrical connections are underground within the array fence, and transfer up a pole just outside the gate, and aurally to the Marshall Street pole connection to Eversource.

Project timing is dependent on the DEP's level of review they require.

- If DEP chooses a Level 1 review, it will complete in June 2021, and construction could start in the fall 2021.
- If DEP chooses a Level 3 review, it will complete by the end of 2021, and construction could start in the spring of 2022.
- The array construction will take 6 months to complete.

The BoH can submit any concerns, questions or words of support to the Select Board regarding the array. They will have an additional time to comment on the post closure permit before the Board signs off.

At this point the Town Administrator, Travis Ahern, is signing the Permit for the Town as a co-applicant with Sol Systems. There is also a letter Travis will sign saying the Town knows they are a co-applicant so there can be no mistake about the arrangement.

The Board had no more questions regarding the Marshall Street Landfill solar array project. They thanked Beth, Rennie and Rob for their presentations.

#### **COVID-19 update:**

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town = 524
- Current active COVID-19 cases = 172
- 7 fatalities - mostly of residents over 70 years old with compromised health
- Holliston Public Schools have 16 positive cases. The School website has the details.
- Vaccine is being distributed in the State per the three phase plan, with prioritization of high-risk / high exposure individuals first.
- Our first responders and congregate care facilities are getting their vaccines now.
- The Holliston Public School teachers union sent a letter inquiring how they will get their COVID-19 vaccination when they become eligible in Phase 2. The School Department is working with Scott and Fire Chief Mike Cassidy investigating what options are available.
- If the School nurses do the COVID-19 vaccine administration, the Health Department will need to the required MIIS onboarding of the vaccination information. The Health Department will explore what it will take to do the MIIS onboarding.
- The Health Department needs funds for additional clerical hours to keep up with the extra work that has precipitated from the pandemic.
- Scott will look into getting in a collaboration with a surrounding community regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Scott will look into being sure all the congregate care facilities are being supported including Cole Court and the medical congregate care homes in Town.
- Holliston remained a Red town on the State's risk map.

**Town Hall Septic upgrade** – Paul Saulnier, engineer, and James Keast, Town Facility Manager will be meeting to discuss the Town Hall septic upgrade plans. Scott will keep the Board posted.

**Health Director Performance Evaluation** Scott met with Travis Ahern, Town Administrator, for Scott's self-evaluation. The Board can do their evaluation with Scott at their next meeting. Scott will contact the Town Clerk to get the details of doing the evaluation virtually.

**623 Winter Street house fire** happened last night. The home had been a licensed kennel for up to 20 dogs, but was currently in the courts to reduce the number of dogs allowed. Many dogs and a woman died from smoke inhalation. The fire is still under investigation. The Animal Control Officer Dona Walsh is helping with in the investigation.

**Next BoH Meetings:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom Teleconference.

**Board Comment:** None

**Laura motioned to close the meeting at 8:52 PM. Thomas seconded.**

**Roll call: Laura- Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed**

Respectfully submitted:  
Ann Adams

Approval Date: 2-9-21