

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
41 COCHITUATE RD TOWN BUILDING
July 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Elisabeth N. Brewer, (EB) M. D., Chair, Susan E. Green (SG), John G. Schuler,(JS) M. D. and Brian Mcnamara. Also present; Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health.

7:05 p.m. There was no public comment.

7:05 p.m. Update on high School Wastewater Treatment Facility

JJ: met with Jeanne Downs of the School Committee (as BoH had requested), went over the history of problems in the past year with her. Jeanne said that the School Committee is aware of the problems and have been kept in the loop by Ben Keefe. The School Committee has discussed the problems at the facility and were aware of the change in O&M company from Weston and Sampson to Whitewater. They have the same concerns that the BoH is expressing; i.e. what happened & why, costs, prevention of future problems. They had not been specific, in the weeds of the problems/issues but she is now aware of more of the specifics of the problems. MassDep conducted a site visit on 6/27/17 at the facility and issued an inspection report, Operator Chris Hayward, and Phil Pascarelli, Chief Operator of Whitewater and Town Engineer Paul Brinkman were also in attendance. The report includes action items from Dep that require a response by August 1, 2017. Action items: chemical tanks secondary containment, effluent sampling and representative samples, parameter testing and reporting in monthly DMRs. The report provided by Mass Dep was reviewed and comments were made on the report and questions posed. Questions were regarding the previously voiced concerns for RO membrane pressures on the rise again that could cause problems. JJ: this inspection was not routine, I have not seen this type of report before and I'm not sure what triggered the site visit. It could be related to all the problems at the plant in the past year and inquiries to Dep. When Dep did their last site visit, where I attended the inspection they sent his assistant. Kevin Brander conducted the inspection this time; he is the head of the Dep Wastewater Management section. The report seems to focus on typical things that Dep would look for during a routine inspection of a WWTF and whether it is functioning/in compliance with testing and reporting to Dep. The inspection did not focus on specific issues that we have been concerned with related to all the problems and repairs in the past year (or related troubleshooting). After a meeting with JJ, Ben Keefe, and Paul Brinkman and discussion of who should respond and who should sign the letter; it was agreed that Town Engineer Paul Brinkman continue to work on a draft response regarding the action items to Dep. Although we needed to clarify that the School Superintendent is on board with Paul responding for the town (since the facility is owned by the school and permit issued to Superintendent). Paul is reaching out to the new Superintendent to discuss. The letter responding to Dep will be sent before the deadline. A conference call is planned within the next 2 weeks with Paul, Chris Hayward and the Bio. Mfg. Co., to identify issues and work through a plan/identify resolutions.

7:25 p.m. Provide comment to the Planning Board regarding proposed Athletic fields at Oxbow Meadows (former Nike site area)

The Recreation Commission is proposing to develop part of the former Nike site property into an athletic field. After JJ spoke with the Rec. Commission Chair, it was noted that the field will be natural grass with excavation of approximately 12 to 18 inches into the ground. The area where the field is proposed had previously been owned by the Federal Government/Army and this area of the site included an underground bunker where missiles were stored. Back in 2005, the Nike Site Reuse Advisory Committee had been formed to oversee a

redevelopment project along with managing the environmental investigation and cleanup of the site in preparation for a residential 40B project. Reports indicated there are no restrictions on the property for use. When the property was acquired by the town this area was abandoned by partial removed of the bunkers/collapsing and then infill with approved fill, from an offsite source, of the area. There were questions as to whether the site had been used for storing nuclear missiles when it was occupied by the Federal Govt/Army and used as a missile storage/bunker. There is some conflicting information regarding this however Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian reached out to Ben Gould LSP of CMG Environmental, Inc. , his email is referenced, where Mr. Gould commented (summarized) that there should not be any current radiation issues. There is no indication in reports of any potential for associated risks. An email had been received by BoH from resident/abutter of the project, Amanda McLain, with questions and concerns. Research was done by JJ regarding the many environmental investigation and testing reports that are held on the Recreation website from when the property was developed for a 40B affordable housing project going back to 2003/2005. The Army Preliminary Assessment report dtd 1993 was referenced (among other reports, listed on the Recreation website: Capital Projects/Oxbow Meadows Field Development/related property documents) and the report indicated a low level of risk to human health or the environment. If there were nuclear missiles stored onsite there were no identified risks or potential for associated risks identified. Questions were raised by abutter Susan Law regarding whether new soil testing should be done? An outside consultant (Tetra Tech) was hired by the Planning Board to provide a report for their site plan review and asked to address the environmental conditions/concerns and reports. Tetra Tech conducted a review and provided a report dated July 11, 2017 for this project, stating that, "given the history, scope and quality of investigation and the level of inspection and documentation required during the demolition phase, we do not expect there to be any outstanding environmental risks at the site". The BoH had no comment on the proposed athletic fields to be located at this site. Director Junghanns stated that portable toilets should be located somewhere on the property for athletic events.

7:40 p.m. June 5, 2017 minutes; EB motion to approve minutes as is with addition of Darren's flow chart (JJ will check to find this flow chart), SG second, all in favor. Vote 4-0, approved.

Discuss summer schedule for BoH meetings; BoH meeting date 8/14; Dr. Schuler and Susan are both able to attend, both Brian and Dr. Brewer will be on vacation. 8/21; Dr. Schuler and Susan are both able to attend. Brian on vacation 8/14-8/26. JJ will check with Dr. Soslow on his availability.

Updates on legal orders: 10 Shore Drive (housing) some progress was seen during the site visit conducted today, 258 Commonwealth Road (septic) repair, soil testing has been scheduled.

7:45 p.m. 24 School Street "Windsor Place " 12 Unit Affordable Housing Project-review project and plans received

There was no one present to represent the project; JJ presented the project based on plans and information received for the comprehensive permit application and comments requested to the Zoning Board of Appeals. JJ provided a draft memorandum of comments for the ZBA, for BoH review.

The project appears consists of 12- 1,660 sq. ft. town homes, 2 buildings and 26 bedrooms. The property is not located in a Zone II/nitrogen sensitive area. We have not received detailed septic design plans; we have only received site plans showing a septic system layout. We noted that we cannot provide a full review and comment without detailed septic system design plans. Soil testing and percolation testing have been done on the property. The plans show a "fast" system but it is not clear what the fast system is intended for or which state approval would be used. Local waivers from town Septic Regulations that we are aware of so far are:

waiver from 165 g.p.d. for new construction, waiver from 75 foot offset to wetlands, likely waiver from 10 foot between trenches when the area is used for reserve. We request that the primary and reserve trenches be constructed at the same time. We suggest that the project be scaled back to 16 bedrooms where 165 g.p.d. system could potentially be designed on the property. A copy of the draft memo to ZBA dated 7/17/17 includes all the comments and details.

There were questions about the property line, has the town verified the property line? Someone should ensure that the boundary of the property line is clear as the property owner has over the years cleared land and built a stone wall potentially on town land near/in the wetlands.

Also, it appears there will be excess runoff, with impervious areas to a sensitive area. With the roof and asphalt areas, calculations are not jiving and are unclear. Since the plans were revised it does not appear that the calculations were updated. Open space available has changed based on the revised plan, with no revised calculations. JJ noted that Town Engineer Paul Brinkman will be providing comment regarding storm water to the ZBA.

A resident, Nancy Leifer of 73 E. Plain St. mentioned that there was a previous use as a chimney business on this property. Has there been soil testing? We suggest soil testing for potential contaminants from debris generated by a chimney business, to ensure there are no contaminants.

Has the fire department reviewed this project to ensure fire flow?

The building plans were reviewed for the project.

8:26 p.m. Discuss information received regarding potential BoH letter of support opposing new pipelines-possible vote

Proponents of this initiative could not send a representative this evening to talk on this subject, however, they indicated they could do so after the summer (early Sept?). Additionally, they still have not provided information that had been requested by Dr. Soslow. This item has been tabled to a future meeting.

8:40 p.m. JS, motion to adjourn, second SG, Vote 4-0 all in favor, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Junghanns, Director of Public Health