

Wayland Board of Health Meeting minutes

11/15/21

6:30 Meeting Called to Order, Chair Robert DeFrancesco (BD), members John Schuler MD (JS), Arne Soslow MD (AS) Susan Green (SG), Director Julia Junghanns (JJ), Ruth Mori (RM), Darren MacCaughey (DM), Dr. Omar Easy (OE)

Introductory language

RD:

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at the meeting location listed above, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may also be accessed remotely via zoom at the link below:

LINK

When required by law or allowed by the Chair, persons wishing to provide public comment or otherwise participate in the meeting, may do so by in person attendance, or by accessing the meeting remotely, as noted above.

Additionally, the meeting will be broadcast live, in real time, via WayCAM which can be viewed online at <https://www.waycam.tv/live> or on one of their cable channels (Comcast 8, 9, or 99 & Verizon 37, 38 or 39). This meeting will also be recorded which will be made available to the public at the link above as soon after the meeting as is practicable.

Everyone in attendance should adhere the MA Department of Public Health's May 29 Mask Advisory that advises all unvaccinated residents to continue to wear masks in indoor settings and when you can't socially distance.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements#effective-may-29:-updated-mask-requirements->

6:30 p.m. Public Comment
None

6:35 p.m. 43 Pequot Road-Local Regulation septic variance for home addition of >60%, Owners Chris and Christine Kenyon

DM described the situation with the 43 Pequot Road septic variance. The resident has an upgraded septic system in conformance with local regulations, and they want to do an addition to their home and add more than 60%. They are in a nitrogen sensitive area on an undersized lot based on MassDEP requirements for nitrogen loading. The bedrooms are being enlarged but none are being added. The State doesn't require increased square footage of land area for an upgrade with no change in number of bedrooms, in a nitrogen sensitive area, but the town currently does in Local Regulation so this is an exemption from the requirement for additional square footage. AS suggests we add some restrictive language that could provide some assurance that there won't be an increase in number of bedrooms.

DM, it meets the spirit of what the intent was for the town regulation, the intent was to trigger a septic system upgrade and their septic system was already upgraded. We hope our draft regulations will be reviewed by Town Counsel soon so we can move forward, a lot of time and work has been put into them.

JS: Made a motion to accept the plans dated 8/12/21 showing 4 bedrooms with an understanding that the bedrooms should not exceed 4 bedrooms. SG: Second. JS: yes, AS: no, RD: yes, SG: yes Passes 3 - 1

6:55 p.m. Covid 19 case updates and clinic information

RM: 25 COVID cases, mostly breakthrough infections since October 1. There was one case in an assisted living that was detected in the hospital. Testing then occurred at the assisted living: 7 residents tested positive, and 1 staff member tested positive with no or minor symptoms. One person is hospitalized due to COVID and that person was not vaccinated. Assisted living facilities are offering boosters; two facilities have already done the boosters, and one facility has scheduled boosters soon. One senior citizen in town died from COVID. The person had many co-

morbidity. In Wayland have seen more breakthroughs with all vaccine types. There isn't any clearcut information readily available on breakthrough infections vs. type of vaccine. It seems like there was a case at Loker with in-school spread. There may also be in-school spread at Claypit Hill through bus transportation which we are currently working on. Those children were exposed on the bus and will take the Binax Now test soon. After seeing one positive case within one seat of the infected child on the bus, the entire bus will be tested. There are now 5 cases in Claypit Hill. Most of the positive cases in Wayland have been in the elementary schools who are unvaccinated.

Three large community flu clinics have occurred. Will vaccinate students in school who need a flu vaccine. There will be Moderna booster vaccines for seniors and homebound, as well as pediatric vaccines from Pfizer offered by the town.

In Wayland, there is a high vaccination rate for Grades 7 to 12. (92-96% vaccination rate) There is a state threshold of 80% vaccination, that allows no masking. We have met the 80% threshold but the no masking policy won't go into effect until DESE allows it.

7:13 p.m. Introduction to Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent of Schools

The BoH welcomed Dr. Easy and wished him luck with his new position. We have been fortunate so far with not too many infections of covid. He summarized the recent situation Ruth mentioned of exposure on a bus. OE is looking into ways to administer more COVID vaccine through a mobile clinic. He met with Julia and Ruth last week to discuss a plan for providing pedi vaccinations and he has also reached out to a company as well. 150 families inquired about getting their child vaccinated through the school. 200 said they were interested if the school offered vaccination. Some families already vaccinated their children, and others are not interested. He is looking into getting booster vaccines for staff members. Staff members have been infected with COVID with breakthrough infections with minor symptoms. OE is looking into a vaccine mandate for teachers, speaking with the union. AS: Suggested OE and School Committee come back to the BoH at the end of January once the decision about masking occurs. He believes Wayland community likes masking, contact tracing etc. OE: We are coming into a tricky time with student travel over the holidays. The superintendent reviewed his perspective and is proceeding with caution regarding masking and that at this time he doesn't plan to approach DESE to not require masks in school. Wearing masks protects all kids. Some districts are pursuing this but he feels it is too soon. BoH members agreed.

JS: Inquired about athletics. OE: There will be indoor athletics in our district.

RD: Encouraged communication between the schools and Board of Health. Over time we worked closely with Arthur Unobsky and we hope to stay in communication with you also and look forward to working with you.

7:27 p.m. FY 23 Budget request-Operating and Salary
Guests from Human Relations Service; Stephen Robbins/Lindsay Steinsieck

The budgeted amount for Human Relations Service is the same amount as last year. JS and AS: Advocating for an increase in budget. Even if level funded this year, could ask HRS to justify an increase for next year. There have been increased costs to operate in the pandemic for telehealth and over 200 hours of reduced fee services, all the while offering the same number of hours of service to Wayland residents. JJ described the process for getting approval for an increased budget which includes several steps within the town. After the BoH review it will then go to the front office for a group review with members from Fincom, BoS, town staff including the Town Administrator and the Finance Director. Then budgets are brought before BoS and Fincom and then annual town meeting. The \$62K level of funding was introduced in FY19, an increase from \$59K, and has held steady since.

JJ described the budget process and the summary she assembled for the budget. JJ described Ruth Mori's work as school nurse leader as well as public health work, acting as a dual role. RM has been primarily working on school nurse leader duties, this is now unsustainable. The new position of school nurse leader will allow RM to have time to devote to public health nursing. So the two new positions that are added into our FY23 budget are the floating substitute nurse (35 hrs/FT) and the School Nurse Leader (19 hrs). There was a review of numbers and a brief discussion.

Motion: SG: Motion to approve the FY'23 budget request for Operations and Salary for Wayland Board of Health pending additional HRS information for potential budget increase for HRS. RD: second. SG: yes, RD: yes, AS: yes and JS: yes. All in favor.

8:00 p.m. AS left the meeting.

8:00 p.m. General business, bills, Minutes September 13, 2021, sign Limited food regulation from 2020
Project updates; Cascade (Mahoney's property)

JS: Motion to Accept the minutes as amended with one correction as noted by JJ. SG: Second SG: yes, RD: yes, and JS: yes

The hydrogeo investigation was approved by DEP for Cascade. The waste water treatment plant will be built not a septic system so the development will be larger than originally planned. JS: Inquired whether the wastewater treatment plant effluent will be discharged into the cold water creek and the surface water runoff was also not going to be discharged to the creek. He hoped it would not. JJ said the Conservation Commission will be reviewing the application as well, it will need to be permitted.

8:07 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any

None.

Next meeting: December 13, 2021

8:08 JS: Motion to adjourn. SG: Second SG: yes, RD: yes, and JS: yes

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Green, Member, Wayland Board of Health

Approved December 13, 2021