

WAYLAND BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING
August 21, 2023

Minutes taken in December 2023 by Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative staff member Russell Keith (temporary employee). The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Robert Eyre (RE). Present in person: members Dr. Genevieve Anand (GA) and Jonathan Storer (JS2). Not Present: Chairperson Dr. Robert DeFrancesco (RD), and member Dr. John Schuler (JS). Present via Zoom: Ms. Deborah Payne (DP).

Also present was Wayland Health Dept. Director Julia Junghanns (JJ).

Acting Chairperson: Roll Call.

GA: Yes. JS2: Yes. RE: Yes. We have a quorum.

6:34 p.m. Public Comment

None.

6:35 p.m. Animal Keeping Permit to keep Chickens, 11 Bow Road, Deborah Payne; also 25 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT).

RE: This is for 7 chickens? GA: Aren't these for variances? RE: Yes. JS2: Because she has less than one acre, we need to review the application. JJ: We haven't changed the regs yet. I've just submitted the changes to Town Counsel, but it's been delayed because the attorney handling regulations changes left the firm. The regulations changes aren't complicated but for now this board will have to hear all applications for animal keeping. RE: Ms. Payne, would you like to comment on your application, your request for a variance? Will the chickens be in view of abutters? DP: No, their view is blocked. JJ: Did you send the letters [notifying abutters of hearing] by certified mail? DP: Yes. I never heard back from anybody. JJ: We didn't either. We need copies of the certified mail receipts. Do you have the offset distances to the two neighbors? DP: Distance to the abutters at 9 Bow Rd. is 158', but to the abutters at 13 Bow Rd. is short about 25'. JJ: That is another variance offset, the regulations ask for 150 feet. This application is unique. Part of the year the chickens will be at your property, and the other part of the year you are proposing they would be across the street on the SVT's property, is that true? They [SVT] have sheep on that property now. RD: There's a big barn there built in 1987. RE: Is that where they'd be housed if they go to SVT for part of the year? DP: Yes, I'd have to work it out with them – about the barn. During the day they'd be free range or in a run. RE: And you would be responsible for them in either place? DP: Yes. RE: Do we have to separate the two applications for DP and the SVT? JJ: Yes. SVT hasn't sent abutters notification letters but we wanted to bring it up in a discussion. DP: I'll make my own application and see what happens with SVT.

6:46 p.m. RE: Calls for motion to approve permit to keep chickens at 11 Bow Rd.

JS2: I move we approve the variances. GA: Second.

Roll Call: GA: Yes. JS2: Yes. RE: Yes. Motion carried. Permit approved.

6:48 p.m. Correspondence: Notice from Eversource Energy, Eastern Ma 2023-2027 Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan; Notification from MassDEP BWP SW -11 Landfill, Major Modification Permit application for South Landfill; Report from MDPH (BCEH) Indoor Air Quality and response to Environmental Health Concerns for Loker Elementary School; Release Abatement Measure Status report for construction-related activities associated with redevelopment of existing building at Town Center, [COA/CC](#)

6:48 p.m. Eversource Notice re. Right-of-Way Vegetation Mgmt.

JJ read Eversource Five-Year Plan Notification: "Eversource Energy intends to selectively apply herbicide along power lines rights-of-way. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that uses the appropriate mechanical and/or herbicides treatments to control vegetation, to encourage the growth of healthy ecological communities that benefit wildlife while allowing for the safe delivery of electricity to our customers." We have a packet of information and a letter from the Commonwealth that responds, saying, "This shall serve as notice of approval of Eversource Energy Central, Eastern, Southeastern, as modified by the Right-of-Way Advisory Panel." So, the Dept. of Agricultural Resources authorizes it. I have a copy of the 5-year plan. I haven't read through it all yet. RE: It seems more informational than an action item. JJ: They're required to keep us informed of any plans they have for vegetation management/work they're doing. JJ: This plan is for rights of way. GA: It's not like when they work along the streets in central areas? JJ: They do tree trimming there for preventing down wires, but that's not a right-of-way. When specific areas are planned for treatment or trimming in their "Right-of-Way" areas they have to notify BoH's and abutters.

6:54 p.m. Major Modification Permit application for the South Landfill.

JJ summarized the notice from Weston and Sampson: "Letter serves to notify the Board of Health that Weston and Sampson, on behalf of the town is submitting a BWP SW 11 Landfill, Major Modification Permit Application to Mass DEP for proposed repairs to cap the South Landfill located on Boston Post Rd. in Wayland. The landfill began operation in 1955 as a burn dump. Operation ceased in 1980. Based on review of as-built drawings, the landfill was capped with approx. 24" of soil cover. In recent years, woody vegetation has established on the landfill cap top and side slopes. The town is proposing to remove woody vegetation from the landfill cap to restore the landfill to be compliant with MA solid waste regulations." There is significant work planned there and test hole exploration. We have a name and number if there are any questions. They are required to do a Health and Safety plan that gets approved by DEP and cc'd to BoH.

6:56 p.m. Indoor Air Quality Report for Loker School.

JJ: This is the first time I've seen a report on this school. I've seen one for the Middle School. This report is by Mike Feeney, the State Indoor Air Quality Program Director. Michele and Heather, our Nurse Leader, discussed the report with Mr. Feeney. The report outlines recommendations for consideration; building maintenance schedules/needs as well as; cleaning, products/rug materials used, office habits, food storage, houseplants. They recommend regular state audits for all schools. GA: Was there a complaint? JJ: I'm not aware of any. It includes a community health assessment program. It mentions the Dow Chemical site, breast cancer, PFAS, so it's possible someone had a concern, and reached out to them. RE: Does the BOH have responsibility for remediation, or is this for our information? JJ: Good question. The Principal and the Superintendent are responsible for the school. They have maintenance & custodial staff and they're responsible for a capital improvement plan. They're aware of the report and it was discussed. Also, Michele was in touch with the interim Superintendent and outlined her conversations with Mike Feeney regarding interpretation of the report and state recommendations. JS2: It was a positive report, wasn't it? No major shortcomings? JJ: The state made recommendations on page 10 re. ventilation, water damage, product storage, food, and cleanliness. JS2: It seems there were no urgent issues but maintenance and follow up on basic recommendations.

7:04 p.m. Release Abatement Measure Status (RAMS) Report for the Council on Aging.

JJ: The initial 120-day RAMS status report, a report about on-site redevelopment has been submitted. It has a tracking number & date, and it tracks what they're doing there. We're copied on any correspondence. We keep those in our office as a public repository. No new information, but it should be part of our review.

7:06 p.m. General business; Bills; Directors report: Updates on large projects, Town Event for Regional Opioid Awareness Night 8/28/23, CT/CI Grant update, Cyanobacteria monitoring update and Public Health Advisory for North Pond of Lake Cochituate including Middle and South Ponds, Budget planning and timeline, Increased housing and nuisance complaints, OpenGov permitting program work, Health Department repairs, Camp permitting, Governor calling State of Emergency for support for incoming migrant families, Regional Public Health Nurse (RPHN) updates

7:06 p.m. Director's Report

JJ: **Land use** – the Mill Creek project was denied by the ZBA. Cascades on Rte. 20 is still before Conservation. The Council on Aging Community Center (COA/CC) was approved by the Planning Board, but there were some appeals by neighbors. RE: Does the development by the church still have pending appeals? JJ: The Saint Anne's development? There were no appeals for that project, so they will be moving forward and submitting plans to town departments. RE: Does that satisfy the Chapter 40B needs of the town? JJ: Yes, I believe so. **Budget Planning:** the town will begin their budget review with Capital Planning. Operational budgets will come soon after in October. We have some items to request. The Dept. Admin Patti has help 3 days a week and

we're looking for creative solutions to support the other two days. We expected that the Land-Use Coordinator position assist and cross train, but that didn't work out. We're looking at other means without resorting to Tax Work-Off help which is helpful for some things but not for others. That's a great resource but doesn't help us in the long term. Michele's doing a lot of extra work in other areas of public health beyond the current PHN job description. We're examining the PHN's job description and have created a revised job description that the HR Manager is/will be reviewing however, it would have to be approved by the Town Manager.

Vacation coverage of field work: The Sanitarian/Health Agent is on vacation, but there's been a lot of field work going on – septic systems & soil testing – stipulated for a specific date on the permit. Construction Work: We had to relocate our office areas so they can do repair work where Patti and Jenna are located (by the counter) due to flood damage. **Summer Intern:** Work on Harmful Algae Blooms and Cyanobacteria research is proceeding. We found the cell count was over 2x the threshold (150-160K cells/ml vs. state threshold of 70K). We sent an advisory for North Pond, and informed the state and they thanked us. The beaches were closed but there's still recreation activity on & in the water. We later observed increasing bloom and continued to notify the state, they ended up doing an advisory for all Ponds of the Lake (South/North and Middle) using our data and observations. The intern, Kim Garcia, will present her findings next meeting. We should continue this testing for habs next year. **CT/CI Grant:** State-authorized grant usage changed scope and shortened the term of the grant. Michele is advocating for a Health Equity Needs Assessment. She provided a copy of the project mission, and we have a pre-bid meeting this week. We'll have a bid opening on Aug. 31st for contractors. Grant ends June 2024. Some funds will go to a tick testing subsidy. GA: Are there reports of tick cases by town? JJ: Any reportable diseases would be in MAVEN. We increased the Grant Manager's hours to assist with the Health Equity Needs Assessment which will be a big undertaking. **Governor Healey called a State of Emergency** due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families who need shelters & services and not enough shelters. Local towns and health depts impacted. There's a conf. call with the state tomorrow. Bedford & Concord support shelters. We are not aware of anywhere they could be housed in Wayland, but any new info should be in that call. JS2: State is leaving no stone unturned to find hotels & inns. **Increase in Housing Complaints & Camp Permits:** Several complaints on Oxbow Rd., one on River View: many re. debris and rubbish in yards. Increase in Camp Permit requests; we have a backlog on some work due to the vacation of our Sanitation & Health Agent Darren. If it's a violation of Sanitary Code we're getting to those. **Regional Opioid Awareness Resource Night** is Mon. Aug. 28th 6-8 p.m. JJ: I'll be there, with the GMPHC PHNs. BOH members encouraged to attend. **OpenGov Permit Renewals** coming in: We've completed our permit renewal campaign for food, pools, camps, animal-keeping, haulers, etc. Fewer renewing on paper. Next year should be smoother. Plan to include other permit types by the end of August. Wayland is currently at low risk for West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. This is good because mosquito season will go past September due to mild temps.

6:38 pm. RPHN Updates: Mass Public Health Equity Survey flyers are going out. Survey is anonymous, available in 11 languages, and accessible online by QR codes on flyers. Info will also be used for the Health Equity needs assessment for our regional collaborative. **School Health:** School Health Leader Heather Yates & RPHN Michele Schuckel held a '23 - '24 School Year meeting. Reviewed updates & concerns. They met with David Fleischman & Betsy Gavron from Wayland Public Schools & reviewed their team structure, goals for data & equitable care in the community. Plan a kickoff mtg late Aug. w/community health nurse team to set agenda for regular mtgs yearlong. We'll review school end-of-year numbers to include in the annual report. I'll have that in draft form for next BOH meeting. **Substance Use & Abuse Prevention, Harm Reduction:** Regional Opioid Awareness Resource Night 8/28. Held 2-part Overdose Awareness Education Series w/18 attendees. Illicit substances landscape in Mass and the latest harm reduction & change management ideas. [Xylazine contamination](#) is rising. She's working with N.E. public schools, Youth & Family Services, and law enforcement to improve understanding. Seeking info from the state on testing when there's a drug-related death to gain a data-centric picture of the issue. Xylazine isn't an opioid and doesn't respond to Narcan. **Vaccination Clinics** are set for 1st Weds. mornings Oct thru Dec for 65+ & caregivers. All ages on 10/23 in the afternoon. No drive-thrus this year. GA: Are you distributing Flu shots with Covid this year? JJ: We're waiting for info on the boosters. PHN Michele is involved in the new Health Equity Survey and the [GMPHC](#) and provided a mission statement about the survey vis-à-vis GMPHC's goals in meeting health needs with equitable practices. Michele managed to get a grant we thought had been withdrawn. We can hire a Behavioral Health Strategist for the schools. We have a job description and she'll work with HR. **Camps:** Working with 13. Process needs improvement. GA: Can you move it online? JJ: Yes, but we only have templates, and there's a wide range of reqs.: immunizations, emergency protocols, down to not filling water bottles with a garden hose (prohibited for good reasons). **Covid-19 updates:** Working with COA on clinic information & response. Studying reimbursement plan changes w/insurers & gov't sources & clinic volunteer scheduling. Cases statewide on the rise. Mass updates its dashboard each Thurs. Nationally deaths/week is steady at ~200. Town's home testing kits & mask supply is low. She wants to know from HR if tests will be provided for town employees. School return plan & response strategy in the works. Recommends [TWiV Podcasts](#) for latest virus info.

8:01 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

None.

RE: Calls for Motion to Adjourn.

GA: Move to adjourn. JS2: Second.

Roll Call: GA: Yes. JS2: Yes. RE: Yes. Motion carried.

8:02 Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Keith