

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
December 6, 2018
5:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930**

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Claudia Schweitzer; Frederick Cowan; and Joe Rosa. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; Assistant Director: Max Schenk

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Patricia Pierce appeared before the board. She stated that she is a site analyst and gave a background of the topography of West Gloucester. She stated that the area is a very sensitive area and she would like it to be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). She stated that it is critical to the area that blasting and fill be limited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 1st, 2018 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED**. Mr. Cowan and Ms. Schweitzer **abstained**.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of November 13^h, 2018 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED**.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Septic Review Subcommittee Report for November 13, 2018- *Mr. Cowan* read for the following report: “At its meeting of November 13, 2018 the Septic Review Subcommittee reviewed and voted 3-in favor, none opposed, to approve the septic system upgrade plans and requests for variances for the following properties:

- 48 Laurel Street (213/53) Property owned by Florence Campbell and represented by Randy Burley, d/b/a Burley Engineering.

- 97 Wingaersheek Road (261/25) Property owned by John Ericson and represented by John Judd, Gateway Consultants, Inc

In addition, Subcommittee members listened to an appeal of a determination of disposition for a decommissioned well located at 99 Wingaersheek Road (261/26) Property owned by Paul E. Russo. The use of the well was allowed with provisions and conditions for safety, back flow prevention to municipal supply and potability.”

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Waiver of Fee for Dumpster License by Joseph T. Pratt-

Mr. Schenk stated that Mr. Pratt just purchased a property at 21 Centennial Avenue and it is a six-unit property and the City’s policy is that any dwelling that has four or more units is required to have a dumpster on-site. He stated that property does not currently have a dumpster they are using toters given by the DPW. He stated that if they use toters they still need to have a dumpster license approved by the DPW. He stated that Mr. Pratt is asking for a waiver to use the toters and to have the fee waived. He stated that the property does have space to accommodate a dumpster.

Joseph Pratt of 23 Derby Street appeared before the board. He stated that he would like to use toters at the property and have the dumpster fee waived.

The board discussed the dumpsters at rental properties and agreed not to waive the fee at 21 Centennial Avenue.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health enforce the regulation as it is written regarding dumpsters at rental properties and dumpster fees given that there are no extenuating circumstances. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

Updates on Mass In Motion – Cape Ann, by Jennifer Donnelly, Program Coordinator-

Jennifer Donnelly, Grant Coordinator of Mass in Motion appeared before the board. She stated that the Mass in Motion grant is a regional grant and it is a municipal wellness and leadership initiative with the movement to lower the risk of chronic disease by supporting equitable food access and active living. She stated that they are focusing on active transportation which includes an increase in bike lanes and bike shares. She stated that they are also focusing on age friendly communities, food planning, and community gardens.

Mr. Schenk commended Ms. Donnelly for all her work on the Mass in Motion initiative as well as her support at the Health Department.

The board thanked Ms. Donnelly for her presentation.

Discussion regarding process of hiring a new Food Inspector for the Health Department-

Mr. Schenk stated that the job description for the Food Inspector has been updated and sent to Human Resources and the Union for approval. He stated that the job description has been approved and the position has been posted internally as of yesterday.

Mr. Cowan stated that he would like to be involved with the interview process.

OLD BUSINESS

Further Discussion on Presentation to the Board by Stephen Jones, Volunteer Representative to the Massachusetts Sierra Club, on the Possible Health Risks of Natural Gas Infrastructure.-

Mr. Schenk stated that the Board of Health requested at the last meeting that they would like additional information on the possible health risks of natural gas infrastructure and he has forwarded that information to board members.

Amanda Nash of 8 Exchange Street appeared before the board in opposition of new natural gas infrastructure. She stated that the letter to the Governor asks that there not be any further permitting on fossil fuel infrastructure without a health evaluation. She stated that it is across the board regarding the burning of gas, the gas leaks, and pipelines.

Mr. Rosa stated that he believes there are two issues that the Governor should be taking into consideration as high priorities; new fossil fuel infrastructure being the option of last resort in regards to climate change and to take care of the existing infrastructure. He does not believe that there is sufficient evidence to prove that people that are currently using natural gas in their homes are endangering their children.

Jay Gustafarro of 9 Starknought Road appeared before the board in opposition of new natural gas infrastructure. He stated that the political purpose behind this was to get Governor Baker to know that communities are opposed to new natural gas infrastructure.

Ellen Leaman of 16 Great Hill Road in opposition of new natural gas infrastructure. She stated that she agrees with Ms. Nash and does believe that there is research to support the byproducts of natural gas. She stated that more research should be done. She stated that 82 communities in Massachusetts have sent a letter to the Governor on the issue.

Marcia Hart of 2 Fremont Street appeared before the board in opposition of new natural gas infrastructure. She stated that she would be happy if the board sent any sort of letter in support of not creating new natural gas infrastructure.

Sunny Robinson of 20 Harvard Street appeared before the board in opposition of new natural gas infrastructure. She stated that she would feel honored to live in a community where the Board of Health put itself on record as being concerned and opposed to new natural gas

infrastructure because of the health risks. She stated that there are many problems with the old infrastructure and any efforts to affect natural gas infrastructure should be put into fixing and maintaining the current infrastructure. She recounted an experience that resulted from excavating in Harvard Street when pressure from a compacting machine cracked an iron gas pipe. Natural gas filled her basement\; vented without incident. She urged the board to keep researching the health risks of natural gas.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health draft a letter stating that the Board agrees that increase gas infrastructure should be considered a last resort in light of global climate change concerns and there should be a renewed emphasis on repairing the existing infrastructure. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

Update of Recruitment for Board of Health Biosafety Committee-

Mr. Schenk stated that there were two people that responded that they were interested in participating in the Biosafety Committee but unfortunately one is already serving on another board which imposes a conflict but the other person is still interested. He stated that he will keep the board updated on the applicants.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Karin Carroll and Max Schenk

The following "Monthly Report" was given to Board members.

[November Monthly Report](#)

Ms. Carroll stated that the smoke-free beaches ordinance goes into effect on January 1, 2019. She stated that they are drafting a press release on the ordinance.

Ms. Carroll stated that the new Dental Center Manager, Diana Maloney was hired and started on Monday. She stated that they had a surprise site visit by the State and they are working on some housekeeping issues that were brought up and the State will be back. She stated that the new SAPSY Coordinator has had to resign due to a family situation. She stated that Kelley Hiland is still out on medical leave.

Mr. Cowan asked if there has been any progress on getting the City to fund compliance checks on marijuana establishment checks. *Ms. Carroll* stated that she sent a letter on behalf of the board on the issue and submitted that to the Mayor and Jim Destino. She stated that they were supportive of the idea. In light of reports of long lines and delays experienced in other communities *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that she is concerned with elderly accessing marijuana for medical purposes.

Mr. Schenk stated that the Shellfish Constable, Tammie Comenelli and Devin Winkler of the Division of Marine Fisheries contacted the Health Department in regards to a complaint they received about dumping in the Jones River. He stated that they did some testing and the results came back much higher than normal. He stated that there are properties on Cedarwood Road that need to upgrade their septic systems. He stated that enforcements letters are going out to those properties. He thanked Craig LoPiccolo and Dave Sargent on their assistance with the issue.

Mr. Schenk stated that the privies on Ram Island are not adversely affecting the water.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Boston Smoke Shop- Chairperson Sagall stated that he noticed the Boston Smoke Shop frosted their windows and was wondering if that was part of the new ordinance. *Ms. Carroll* responded that that was not part of the Board of Health's ordinance but a new City ordinance that says all marijuana accessories cannot be visible from the street.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on January 3, 2019 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
December 2018 Board of Health Agenda
November 1, 2018 Board of Health Minutes
November 2018 Monthly Department Reports