

Noreen Guilfoyle, Chair
Bernadette Chirokas, Vice Chair
Leanne Jasset, Member

Kylee Sullivan, Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva,
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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Location: Town Hall (450 Washington Street) Room 304

The following Board of Health Members were present:

Noreen Guilfoyle, Chair
Bernadette Chirokas, Vice Chair
Leanne Jasset, Member

The following staff were present:

Kylee Sullivan, Health Director

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Public Comment

Rachel Walsh-Peterson, resident at 24 Autumn Lane, provided public comment. Ms. Walsh-Peterson reported that she is a volunteer for a non-political educational campaign called "Be SMART for Kids". This campaign focuses on raising awareness and engaging communities nationwide to prevent children and teens from accessing unsecured firearms. Ms. Walsh-Peterson stated the organization has a variety of available educational resources such as flyers, presentations, materials, and an informative website. She expressed interest in staying connected with the Board of Health and Dedham Health Department to continue to raise awareness and share life-saving information.

Discussion & Vote: 01/09/2024 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Bernadette Chirokas made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Member Leanne Jasset seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Public Hearing: 1 Rocky Ridge Road Septic Variance Request

On January 30, 2024, the applicant for 1 Rocky Ridge Road submitted updated plans for a proposed shared septic system for 3 dwellings. The updated plans addressed all of consultant Seacoast Engineering's comments dated January 1, 2024, except the request for 1-2 more deep test holes and perc tests for the proposed soil absorption system.

As required by the Board's General Regulations, abutters were notified of the hearing through a notice crafted by the Health Department and the public was made aware through a notice published in the Dedham Times on Friday, February 9, 2024.

Scott Henderson of Henderson Consulting, the engineer for this project, as well as Greg Carlevale, the applicant, were present at the meeting. Mr. Henderson reviewed the site and system specifications for this project. He stated that the system meets Title 5, and he believes granting this variance for a shared system will provide just as much, if not more protection to the public health, than three individual systems would. Mr. Henderson stated that this presented work was approved at the Planning Board meeting on January 23, 2024. The Board discussed the updated recommendations given by Seacoast Engineering. Member Leanne Jasset made a motion to grant the variance contingent upon the following: 1) compliance with Title 5; 2) the addition of metes/bounds on the submitted plans; 3) the submission of individual septic plans for each lot with potable well information; and 4) the completion of additional percolation testing with test pit(s) (1-2 test holes and percs) at the time of filing the individual plans and before final review for each. Vice Chair Bernadette Chirokas seconded the motion, and the Board voted to unanimously grant the variance.

Discussion (& Possible Vote): Human Rights Commission Event

Dedham Human Rights Commission is putting together a roundtable event in March or April for Dedham residents to meet with town leadership and share their concerns and ideas regarding food, housing, and transportation issues. The Commission requested a Board of Health representative present for this event.

Chair Bernadette Chirokas volunteered to be the Board of Health representative for this event. Member Leanne Jasset made a motion to appoint Vice Chair Bernadette Chirokas, which was seconded by Chair Noreen Guilfoyle. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Bernadette Chirokas as the Board of Health representative for the Dedham Human Rights Commission event.

Discussion: Cannabis Working Group

The Cannabis Working Group held their first public meeting on January 30, 2024. Member Leanne Jasset attended the meeting as a Working Group member. During the meeting, the Working Group discussed many different aspects of permitting marijuana establishments in Dedham. Member Jasset summarized the discussion for the Board and reported that the Working Group presented numerous questions and Town staff are gathering answers to these questions before another meeting is scheduled.

Update from Health Director

Permit Renewals: Permit holders who had not submitted permit application renewals at the January Board meeting were sent certified letters about their failure to renew their permits. Since receiving the letters, permit holders have completed their renewal

applications and been issued permits. Two food businesses, Bundts and Tea and Piperi, have ceased operations and did not renew their permits.

14 Arbor Ln: There will be a hearing on March 1st as the receiver is proposing to foreclose and sell the property.

Opioid Settlement Survey: The Health Department is working with Amanda Smith, Director of Communications, to better highlight mental health and substance use resources for residents. This will include a press release about the opioid settlement survey. Vice Chair Chirokas agreed to provide a quotation for this press release.

Department Staffing Vacancies: The Public Health Nurse position and the DOSA Program Director position remain vacant. Interviews will be scheduled for both in the coming weeks.

Tuberculosis (TB): Director Sullivan provided the Board with a TB report of latent/active cases from January 2023 to present. She noted that most of the cases are for latent TB, which is not contagious. Vice Chair Chirokas stated that in previous years if an individual was suspected to have been exposed to TB, or suffering from TB-like symptoms, a series of tests were administered to determine whether TB was present. More rigorous and thorough testing has since been implemented to determine if TB is present. Massachusetts has a strict and well-regulated system to monitor active cases, and the testing has become much more sensitive and specific over the span of the last few years.

Old/New Business

Member Leanne Jasset inquired on any additional information on the Legionella bacterium found in the water at Traditions. Director Sullivan reported that is still being resolved. Water testing, water fixture updates, treatment and water flushing has been conducted at the facility. Traditions reached out to residents and families to inform them of the findings and next steps. They also provided bottled water to residents. Legionella is often found in freshwater, and typically is the result of building-related issues such as changes in water pressure, water stagnation, or water temperature issues. Director Sullivan will continue to keep the Board updated as more information becomes available.

Member Leanne Jasset made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 PM, which was seconded by Vice Chair Bernadette Chirokas. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 PM on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Board of Health's Meeting held on February 20, 2024, which minutes were approved on March 19, 2024.

Noreen Guilfoyle – Chair