

# **TOWN of HINGHAM**

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

### Board of Health Public Meeting

#### **February 12, 2019**

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor Committee Room, Hingham Town Hall, Hingham, MA.

Dr. Shilts called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

#### **Members Present:**

Kirk Shilts, D.C., Chair

Peter Bickford, Member

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

#### **Staff Present:**

Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer

#### **Agenda:**

Dr. Shilts reviewed the posted agenda with the Board.

Ms. Sarni said her EHO report will also include updated job descriptions for the Public Health Nurse and Town Social Worker positions.

**Thereafter, the agenda for the meeting was established as amended.**

#### **Minutes:**

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the January 8, 2019 public meeting.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Mr. Bickford, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (unanimous); **to approve the January 8, 2019 meeting minutes as drafted.**

#### **Cellar Floor to Groundwater Variance Request:**

##### **2 Mann Street**

*Spokesperson: Brendan Sullivan, PE and Laura Weibley, applicant*

Ms. Weibley requests a variance to the Supplementary Rules and Regulations, Section VI.14, to allow the construction of a cellar floor less than 18 inches above the maximum ground water table.

- Mr. Sullivan said that the Planning Board has approved this new (undeveloped) Form A lot along with a site plan and drainage plan in January 2019. The proposed dwelling will be a 4,800 sq.ft., serviced by town sewer.
- The lot's impervious area is increasing from approx. 5,000 sq.ft. (prior driveway) to 7,000 sq.ft.
- The proposed basement floor is at elevation 28.1 and the groundwater is at elevation 31.7.
- Dr. Shilts questioned the need for a basement and if they considered slab construction due to the high groundwater conditions. Ms. Weibley said she preferred a basement.
- Mr. Bickford asked about a french drain, and grade changes that could affect abutters. Mr. Sullivan said the grade would be flattened out and they would take the french drain into consideration.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Mr. Bickford and VOTED (unanimous);

**to approve the variance to the Hingham Supplemental Septic Regulations Section VI.14; conditional to the four (4) conditions listed in Ms. Sarni's draft approval letter dated 2/12/19; and conditional that the basement is waterproofed in the manner identified on plans dated 1/28/2019 (revised).**

**Supplementary Rules and Regulations Discussion:**

The Board reviewed the entire draft regulation with extensive changes and additions from prior meetings.

Thereafter, a motion was made Mr. Bickford, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (unanimous);

**to approve the draft revision to the Town's Supplementary (Septic) Rules and Regulations and post to the Town's website for public comment, and forward to Town Counsel for legal review.**

**Fore River Basin Air Quality Study Discussion:**

Dr. Eldredge updated the Board on the current status of this issue.

- Dr. Eldredge reviewed the state's Jan. 2009 Health Impact Assessment of a Proposed Natural Gas Compressor Station in Weymouth, MA report.
- She said the report stated there were no significant health issues which would prohibit the siting of a natural gas compression plant at this location in the Fore River Basin in North Weymouth.
- Dr. Eldredge reviewed the 2/7/19 rebuttal letter Health Risks of A Proposed Compressor Station in Weymouth, MA from the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility.
- Dr. Eldredge said the letter notes that this area of North Weymouth is densely populated and that natural gas compressor stations are rarely sited in such areas.
- She said the letter notes that the Fore River Basin is burdened with excess rates of lung disease, heart disease and cancer.
- Dr. Eldredge said the state's report is being appealed.

**Regulations Governing the Keeping of Animals and Fowl:**

The Board discussed potential revisions to the regulations.

- Involvement of the Animal Control Officer in the application.
- New exceptions under the MGL c.140 section 136A of the dog kennel requirements.
- New section on Fines and Penalties.

Thereafter, a motion was made Mr. Bickford, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (unanimous);

**to approve draft updates to the Town's Regulation Governing the Keeping of Animal and Fowl, as amended, and post on the Town's website for public comment, and forward to Town Counsel for legal review.**

**EHO Report:**

- Advised, Ms. Sarni to have Linden Ponds attend next hearing regarding further discussion on the lifeguard waiver previously issued January 8, 2019.
  - Advised, Ms. Sarni to send a letter to homeowner at 60 Manatee to attend next hearing regarding their required Animal Facility Permit.
  - Advised, an unregulated dog kennel at 930 Main St. is currently under state action.
  - The Board reviewed the draft job description for the Public Health Nurse position with Ms Sarni.
- Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (unanimous);
- to approve the job description for the Town of Hingham, Public Health Nurse as amended.**
- The Board reviewed the job description for the Town Social Worker position with Ms. Sarni.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (unanimous);  
**to approve the job description for the Town of Hingham, Social Worker as amended.**

**Scheduling**

The next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Sarni, MPH

***Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:***

- *Meeting agenda, 2/12/19*
- *Draft meeting minutes, 1/8/19*
- *2 Mann Street, Variance Request*
- *2 Mann Street, draft Approval Letter, S. Sarni, 2/12/19*
- *Under basement Floor detail dated 12/11/2009*
- *Supplementary Septic Rules and Regulations, draft revision 1/9/19*
- *Regulation Governing the Keeping of Animals and Fowl, draft update 2/12/19*
- *Position Title: (draft) Public Health Nurse, 5/15/18*
- *Position Title: Licensed Independent Social Worker, July/2018*