

TOWN of HINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

June 10, 2021

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held remotely by telephone as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present

Peter Bickford, Chair

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

Kirk Shilts, D.C., Member

Staff Present

Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer

Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

John Chessia, Board Consultant Engineer

Board Reorganization

Mr. Bickford asked for nominees for the position of Board chairman for the upcoming term.

Dr. Eldredge nominated Dr. Shilts. No other nominees were offered.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Mr. Bickford and VOTED (roll call);
to elect Dr. Shilts Board chairman to commence upon the conclusion of the meeting.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Public Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of 5/20/21 with the Board.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes of May 20, 2021 as amended.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Semi-Public Pool Lifeguard Waiver

Linden Ponds

Spokesperson: Mary Whidden, Fitness & Aquatic Director

- The Board has annually approved this applicants a lifeguard waiver over numerous years.
- The current request reflects a change to their Fitness Center and Pool operating hours from 7am -5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Ms. Whidden said they were open until 6:00 pm, but there was not a lot of use of the pool at that time.
- Unguarded buddy swim hours will be adjusted to 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The morning unguarded hours have not changed from the previous waiver.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call);

to amend the annual lifeguard waiver for the 2021 swim season to reflect the changes indicated in the Linden Ponds letter dated 4/27/21.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Sewage Disposal Works Construction Permits:

302 & 304 Whiting St.

Spokesperson: Gary James, James Engineering

- The application is for two new single-family houses that were approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) under the state's chapter 40B affordable housing law.
- The property owner is the Trustees of the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust (HAHT) and the South Shore Habitat for Humanity is the developer.
- Mr. James said the application involves two (2), three-bedroom dwellings with conventional septic systems.
- Dr. Shilts said the municipal water supply connection to 304 Whiting may need to be straightened to conform to our water system's requirement.
- Mr. Bickford asked about the setbacks to the abutting property's potable well. Mr. James said the septic systems will be 127' and 140' from the potable well at 300 Whiting St., not the required 250' under the Hingham supplemental septic regulations. Mr. James said the state setback requirement is only 100'.
- Dr. Shilts said this is the Board's first opportunity to discuss this project with the applicant. He said he will support the ZBA comprehensive permit but believes it is also appropriate to ask the applicant, which is the HAHT, to consider doing something to protect the neighbor's water supply from our own project.
- Dr. Shilts recommended sending a letter to the HAHT asking that a set sum be put aside to install a whole-house water treatment system for the neighbor. He said this has recent precedent from another multi-home development that similarly did not have an adequate setback to a potable well.
- Dr. Eldredge stated that the Board was not in favor of this project due to its potential impact on groundwater quality in the area. She said she attended the ZBA hearing and feels the project is being somewhat forced into this location without scientific proof that it's adequately safe. She supported sending the applicant a letter and wait for their reply.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call);

to continue the application for up to 60-days, and that the Board send a letter to the HAHT describing the whole house water treatment mitigation that was provided in a similar septic permit application at a different location in Hingham.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

Executive Health Officer (EHO) Report

COVID-19 Update

- Ms. Sarni said as of last week, 65% of Hingham residents are fully vaccinated. She said the state is at 59%.
- 69% of Hingham residents over age 75 are vaccinated compared to the state at 90%
- Ms. Sarni said she created a flyer to show the data, where in Hingham residents can obtain the vaccine and the phone number for homebound residents to get this information. The flyer will be posted in Harbor Media and given to the Senior Center.
- Dr. Shilts reminded the Board that the COVID-19 State of Emergency ends next week on 6/14/21.

Scheduling

The next meeting was scheduled for 7/22/21 at 7:15 p.m.

Adjournment

The 6/10/21 public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Benedetto, Administrative Secretary

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *Posted agenda 6/10/21*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 5/10/21*
- *Linden Ponds lifeguard waiver request letter, dated 4/27/21*
- *Septic system design plan for 302 & 304 Whiting St., James Engineering, 2/15/21 (revised)*
- *Existing conditions 302 & 304 Whiting St., James Engineering, 2/15/21 (revised)*
- *ZBA Comprehensive Permit for 302 & 304 Whiting St., 9/3/20*