

TOWN of HINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

June 23, 2022

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held in the Central North Hearing Room, Hingham Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts. Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 8:10am.

Members Present

Peter Bickford, Chair

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

Rosemary Byrne, N.P. Member

Staff Present

Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer

Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

Chairperson's Message

Mr. Bickford welcomed Rosemary Byrne as a new member for the Hingham Board of Health. Mr. Bickford acknowledged that Mrs. Byrne would be replacing Dr. Kirk Shilts who was a member of the Board for 18 years. Dr. Shilts was a relentless worker who put in countless hours for the Board and for the Health Department staff. Dr. Shilts' dedication has made Hingham a better place to live and we thank him for all his work.

He also acknowledged that the previous Executive Health Officer, Bruce Capman recently passed away. Mr. Capman was employed in this position in Hingham Health Department for approximately 30 years. Mr. Bickford wanted to recognize Mr. Capman's dedication and stated that he also left Hingham a better place to live.

Agenda

There was no vote

Public Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes of May 12, 2022.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Mr. Bickford, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2022 as drafted.**

members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge (Rosemary not in attendance at this time)

members opposed: none

Action Items

Board Reorganization

Mr. Bickford voted in as Board Chair for the upcoming term.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Mr. Bickford and VOTED (roll call); **to approve and elect Mr. Bickford to Board Chair.**

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge (Rosemary not in attendance at this time)

Members opposed: none

New Member Rosemary Byrne was welcomed.

99 Ward St., Variance to Potable Well

Terence McSweeney, P.E., for the Applicant

Mr. McSweeney submitted a proposed plan to upgrade a new septic system for 99 Ward Street. He presented to the Board the applicants request for one divergence from Title 5 of the State Environmental Code and three variances the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Peter Bickford and VOTED (roll Call); **to approve the requested variances as stated in the June 14, 2022 memo which consist of, the Title 5 Divergences 15.405(1)(b) depth of system components and from the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations, Section VII.F, SDS to private well setback, Section VII.J Thickness of naturally occurring soils and Section VII.M construction in fill, thickness of natural occurring, unsaturated soils under SAS. In addition, approved were the conditions of the approved proposed upgrade for the septic system listed in the June 14, 2022 memo from Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer.**

members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge, Byrne

members opposed: none

220 Summer, DWCP Variance New Construction

Mr. Ryan Sillery, Owner of the Property

Ms. Sarni informed the Board that she received an email from the town engineer, Mr. J.R. Frey stating that after careful review of the plans he informed the site engineer, Mr. Gary James, that there needs to be a change in the outlet elevation for the new pipe into the existing pipe. Otherwise, the design is acceptable.

The applicant requested one variance from the Hingham Supplementary Rules and Regulations, Section V.K. Expired percolation test over two years and Title 5 Divergence 15.405: (1)(b) depth of burial of system components.

Ms. Sarni recommended to the Board to vote to approve the variance from V.K. Expired percolation tests over two years. The 15.405 Title 5 Divergence has been met and the proposed upgrade with the conditions stated within the approval letter for 220 Summer Street, Hingham, MA.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Peter Bickford and VOTED (roll Call); **to approve the septic design documented in the memo date June 16, 2022 from Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer, excluding the Title 5 Divergence and to approve the Section V.K. Expired percolation test over two years.**

members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge, Byrne

members opposed: none

Discussion

Ms. Sarni asked the Board if they would grant her the authority as Executive Health Officer to approve waivers for pumping submitted for the Fats, Oils and Grease regulation.

Any food establishment that is on sewer must have a grease trap under the Hingham FOG regulations. There are establishments that do not produce enough grease to keep the pumping services going and therefore would ask for a waiver to cut down or eliminate the service required under this regulation per year. The requests for waivers is yearly and there is possible change with this time frame to be discussed.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Rosemary Byrne and VOTED (roll Call); **to approve and grant authority to the Executive Health Officer to have the authority to approve waivers for the Fats, Oils and Grease regulation.**

members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge, Byrne

members opposed: none

New Business

No new business brought before the Board.

EHO REPORT

Covid Update: Significant decrease in cases this month. The CDC has dropped our risk level to low.

A discussion regarding reporting public health issues and if there could be a Health Department Facebook. The Board members stated it would be helpful to have a specific page where residents could find that latest updates and supported the idea of seeing if this is feasible.

Susan explained that the town would like this type of information to be on the town of Hingham's Facebook page where the information would all be under one location but would look into it.

iHealth Test Kits

There is an order coming in this week from DPH for another 9000 tests. Susan stated that the department would be giving 1000 to schools for September, and then having the balance for fall and distribution sites at Town Hall, Police Department and Farmers Market throughout the summer. There are stickers that will be put on these test kits that have been provided from the state that will inform all those who receive a box the extended expiration date information.

Tobacco Compliance Officer:

We have a new Tobacco Compliance Officer, Kathleen Mahoney who works out of Hanover Health Department. She will be starting this week to conduct tobacco education and compliance checks to both State and Local regulations. She works in other surrounding towns conducting the education and compliance checks under a state grant. The money will come from my revolving account from Tobacco Permitting.

21 Leavitt St

Susan informed the Board that she met with Town Council, John Coughlin on the regulation on the ANR. We can possibly amend our regulation to use different wording. Attorney Coughlin gave some additional ideas regarding this matter and expressed it was difficult because it is not a real public health violation and therefore not meeting the criteria to condemn the dwelling.

As known to the Board, this is two lots with an existing dwelling and septic system. The plan has been endorsed with Planning and with that its approval it now has violations with the Hingham Board of Health. However, to say it has failed due to square footage is not an environmental issue and then brings up the suggestion as to whether the Board would be consider amending the regulations.

Grant Update

A quick update from Ms. Sarni that the grant via DPH is still in the process of being established. Town of Hull and Scituate pulled out of collaborating with Hingham and Cohasset. Hingham and Cohasset continue to work with DPH on this collaboration.

Scheduling

The next meeting: TBD

Adjournment

The public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 9:10am

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *BOH of Health Meeting Agenda*
- *Board of Health Public Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2022*
- *99 Ward Street, Variance Request Upgrade, dated June 14, 2022 from Susan Sarni, EHO*
- *220 Summer Street, Variance Request Upgrade, dated June 16, 2022 from Susan Sarni, EHO*
- *220 Summer Street, Supplemental Engineering Review, dated March 18, 2022 from John Chessia, P.E.*
- *220 Summer Street, Email dated June 22, 2022, from JR Frey, Town Engineer*
- *EHO Report*