

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
11:33 AM – 12:50 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Laura Azzam – Chair
Dr. Jennifer Kickham – Member
Diana Chaplin – Member
Kelly Pawluczzonek, RS, MS - Public Health Director
Beth Ann Boles, RS – Health Agent
Michelle Hubbard – Administrative Assistant, Meeting Minutes

I. Residents’ Concerns

Meeting called to order by Laura Azzam at 11:33 AM.

No resident concerns unrelated to agenda items.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15, 2023. Laura Azzam seconds. Diana Chaplin abstained from the vote due to the fact that she was not board member at the time of that meeting. All in favor, the motion is carried.

III. 51 Loring Lane – Animal Permit – Update – Animal Inspector Karen O’Reilly

We have gone by the property and seen no changes. The yard is overgrown and no goats were seen. Animal Inspector Karen O’Reilly has been placed on leave due to a knee injury caused by the goat. We have had no communication with the owner. The letter sent by Kelly was received as we received the signed certified mail card back. The 30 days that was given in the letter would bring us to Monday May 15, so there is no update. We will continue to keep an eye on it.

IV. 27 Golden Ball – Septic Variance and Upgrade Approval

- Requesting upgrade approval – to be 7.6 feet to the property line (required 10 feet)
- Requesting a Variance from the Weston Board of Health Local Regulation Chapter VI Sewerage Disposal Systems 2.5 Distance Requirements – No part of the structural components of a leaching facility shall be located within 100-feet of a wetland as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 131 section 40. Request to allow the soil absorption system and system components to be within 100 ft of the wetland.

The purpose of this project is to replace the single-family dwelling's sewage disposal system. Due to the site constrained imposed by the existing retaining walls, the yard to the rear of the house is the only viable location for the proposed system. Bordering Vegetated Wetlands surround the northern and western sides of the lot projecting a 10' Buffer Zone on a majority of the lot. Presby Advanced Enviro-Septic System, which allows for a 40% reduction in system size, is proposed to minimize the system footprint. Local Upgrade Approvals for setbacks to the foundation, property line, and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands are requested. This places the Presby 37.6' from the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. A potential conventional footprint is shown a minimum of 29.8' from the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The design as proposed maximizes the distance to the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands while avoiding constraints on other portions of the site. A siltation barrier is proposed to prevent runoff or sedimentation from entering the resource area.

Diana Chaplin made a motion to approve the variances. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

V. Director's Monthly Review/Update – Kelly Pawluczonek RS, MS

Ice Cream Truck VeeBops is requesting a reduction in their yearly food permit fee. They currently donate a portion of their earnings to Parks & Recreation and the fee reduction has been granted in the past. Last year the fee was reduced from \$125 to \$50.

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to reduce the fee for their food permit. Diana Chaplin seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

The plumber at Merriam Village is doing some upgrades and he is applying for a variance from the State Plumbing Board. They must notify Board of Health and we then decide on how we want them to proceed. The properties at 23 Village Road Building 3 Unit 62 and 23 Village Road Building 1 Unit 27 are requesting permission for the continued use of a 1.5" drain for a new shower they would like to have installed. The requirement with the plumbing code is 2". Kelly spoke with the Weston plumbing inspector and he stated that if there is a basement he can get into when he does inspections, he will check the pipe size, and some is already a 2" line. If he cannot see the piping and it is just a slab, he is allowing, with a variance, to continue using the 1.5" drain. In previous towns that Kelly has worked for, they send a letter stating they agree with the existing plumbing code. We are not approving the variance. The State Plumbing Board wants to know what we think, so we are stating whether we support it or not. Kelly recommends continued support for the plumbing code. The State Plumbing Board can then decide at their level and can supersede a decision that we make.

Diana Chaplin made a motion to support the rules and regulations of the state plumbing code. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

Impact Melanoma is going forward. Newton-Wellesley Hospital is sponsoring the 2-year program and has given \$5,000 towards the sunscreen dispensers. We will be getting 10 dispensers that will be placed throughout the town. All of the refills are included in the price we are paying as well as putting them up and taking them down, and the dispensers are covered for replacement in the case of vandalism. We are responsible for monitoring the dispensers. They will be placed at 3 locations on the Rail Trail in the parking lots at Church Street, Concord Road, and Gun Club Lane. They will also be placed at Cat Rock Parking on Drabbington Lane, Burchard Park/College Land Conservation Area (269 Concord Road), Weston Reservoir Main Parking (Ash Street), Jericho Forest/Dickson Riding Ring Parking (Concord Road), and potentially at Case Estates Legacy Trailhead (Alphabet Lane). Three dispensers will be placed at Memorial Pool.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Because the pandemic officially ends tomorrow, we are looking to use the money from the Contact Tracing Grant to do mental health programs with approval from the state. We will be doing the Hidden in Plain Sight program at the schools in September during the curriculum night. The police department will also bring a car and show examples of where substances can be hidden in a vehicle. There is talk within the grant of using opioid funds to hire a regional Substance Abuse Coordinator. They are trying to determine what each town has already received and how much money they will be receiving. This will be used to conduct the needs assessment, develop and implement prevention programs, education and training to community members, as well as providing support to individuals who do struggle with substance abuse.

The new housing code is effective May 12, 2023. In the new code, incinerator toilets have been approved. These are waterless toilets that turn waste into ash and are vented to the outside. It is questionable because the ash has to be disposed of once a week and it is unknown how much bacteria is in the ash. They would have to be approved by the plumbing inspector. You would need something for your graywater which would include laundry, sinks, and showers but there would not be anything for any septage. Kelly and the Board members spoke about the 40B project on Boston Post Road where they are proposing a wastewater treatment system in the basement that would boil the wastewater. Kelly also spoke about the changes to the maintenance of areas in the new code. They have added that an owner of any parcel of land whether vacant or otherwise shall be responsible for conditions contributing to the accumulation of standing water or any other conditions which affect the health, safety, or well-being of the occupants of any residence or the general public. A brief discussion was had about the wetlands article that was approved at Town Meeting.

Kelly updated the RDNA regulations. She has not heard from the fire department so she will be reaching out to Chief Woodside. Once approved by the Board, they can go to Town Council for review and they can then come back with changes if needed. If changes are needed, it will go back to the Board to be voted on.

We are hosting a Mental Health First Aid Training on Friday and there are 8 people signed up. The public health emergency for COVID-19 is ending tomorrow. As far as vaccines, the monovalent vaccines are no longer authorized. The CDC is recommending everyone 6 months+ get at least one bivalent dose and those that are over 65 and immunocompromised get at least one additional dose. Private insurers are expected to pay for COVID-19 vaccines going forward. Long term care facility guidance will be released with no changes expected to testing for cases in the community. Reporting requirements are easy but not disappearing. We expect no change in the isolation exposure guidance for the general population when an individual is symptomatic, exposed, or tests positive. There are no changes in the guidance for K-12 or out of school activities and masks are no longer required in school health offices. Hospitals are permitted to drop their mask requirements and are encouraged to consider special populations. Tracking of the COVID-19 data wastewater evaluation will continue for regional awareness for Weston. We are still made aware of positive tests through MAVEN, and we are still giving out masks at Town Hall but are currently out of test kits.

Board of Health will have a table at Celebrate Weston with help from the Great Meadows Collaborative. WERC will be running the MyChip ID program at the fire station.

VI. Next Meeting Date

June 14, 2023 at 11:30 AM via Zoom.

VII. Adjourn

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diana Chaplin seconds. Laura Azzam adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.