



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

MEETING MINUTES – April 13, 2021 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom -- Meeting ID: 990 7565 0795; Passcode: 986409

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Malcolm Boyd, Dr. Michael Loberg, Vice-Chairman, and Jeff Pratt, Clerk. Ms. Maura Valley, Health Agent, Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, and Valerie Soushek, Administrative Secretary, were also in attendance.

The commissioners approved the meeting minutes for February 9, 23, and March 9, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS

4:30 PM – Steve Bowen, "Fish"

Ms. Catie Blake stated that Mr. Steve Bowen is before them to request the approval of his restaurant plan for a 48-seat restaurant with primarily outdoor seating next to Waterside Market on Main Street. Eight diners will be allowed inside.

The sewer flow has been approved; a 1,500-gallon grease trap was installed by Maciel & Sons; an interior grease trap is scheduled for installation, and Mr. Bowen has requested a variance for one unisex handicapped bathroom from the State.

Ms. Blake has conducted a preliminary inspection and approval of the space.

Based on Ms. Blake's recommendation, the commissioners unanimously voted to approved Mr. Bowen's application.

4:45 PM – Adam Epstein re: Veteran's Park concert

Mr. Adam Epstein came before the commissioners to present his proposal, *MV Concert Series Health, Safety, and Security Procedures*, for organizing a summer music event in Veteran's Park. The proposal addressed the following topics:

Event Security Enforcement of Social Distancing and COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
Groups of attendees
Coves/Pods (500 coves with a total capacity of 2,000)
Massachusetts COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
Sanitation Procedures
Concessions and Beverages
Restrooms and Hand Wash Stations
Attendees
Performers/Tour Personnel
Staff Procedures
Emergency Evacuation Plan
Sudden Emergency Evacuation
Inclement Weather
Force Majeure

Mr. Epstein is asking to "take the risk" of producing an event for July 23-25, 2021, with the commissioners' approval, only to the point that future COVID-19 restrictions apply to the event.

The commissioners agreed that the 2019 Beach Road event made a favorable impression on the Town. They recalled, however, that the egress was congested and should be given some thought for improvement at future events, to which Mr. Epstein was appreciative for the feedback and agreeable.

Mr. Epstein confirmed that they would conduct temperature screening of the staff at the start of every shift. They may also ask for proof of vaccination. He is willing to abide by last-minute BOH requests on behalf of public health.

Ms. Valley stated to the commissioners that Mr. Epstein is not looking for approval at this time. He just is hoping not to be denied and for permission to move forward with event planning until applicable COVID-19 orders are released. She recommended that this matter be revisited at the BOH meeting on June 22nd, one month before the event, to review COVID-19 orders for that period. In the meantime, the commissioners should check the proposal.

The commissioners agreed with Ms. Valley's recommendation.

Mr. Epstein understands that the event may be cancelled should public health concerns dictate.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- Mike Hugo of MAHB re: grant opportunity

After considering positions for environmental health inspector and community health worker, Mr. Hugo stated that the grant was submitted about a year ago for \$38,000 as a planning grant for a biologist. Due to the pandemic, it took months for the funding to be approved. MAHB received it last June.

So far, Mr. Hugo has confirmed that \$10,000 will be invested in tick tubes. The funds will also be used to hire three workers (summarized below), who will work remotely on the road --

- an intern/beginner health inspector, who the Island health agents will mentor
- a wildlife biologist, who will work on the tick, cyanobacteria, and mosquito issues. This position will be shared with Nantucket.
- The 3rd worker would be a hybrid environmental health/epidemiologist, conducting inspections of beaches, camps, and pools during the high season. On a year-round basis, they would be somebody who would be hired from one of the existing community services groups at an annual salary of \$65,000.

Mr. Hugo clarified that the program is being considered by the legislature as a three-year program that will repeat for three-years and be funded at \$10 million per year/thirty grants at \$300,000. Everyone who applied is being awarded the funds.

- Summer Events, i.e., Tisbury Street Fair, First Fridays, Town Picnic

Ms. Valley stated that she had received inquiries for planning summer events. The Town Picnic is scheduled for May 31st. There are no controlled entrances for the Street Fair for restricting access, and attendees will be eating and drinking (without masks). The organizers, Vineyard Haven Business Association of First Fridays, are proposing street closures and want to put up tents for the artisans. Ms. Valley stated that street festivals are not allowed under COVID-19 orders. At this time, none of these events are allowed.

Ms. Valley agreed to talk to the organizers to get an idea of the time frames they are working under and how much advance notice will be required for planning before the commissioners can revisit the matter and provide a decision.

- COVID-19 Update(s)

Ms. Valley reported on an uptick of cases, the highest number since the beginning of the pandemic, for the week ending April 3rd.

Through additional testing, at least one of the variants has been discovered. The State will be conducting variant testing, for breakthrough infections, of patients who had already been vaccinated.

The frequency of public forums has been increased. The Martha's Vineyard Builders' Association will be addressed directly.

The percentage of COVID-19 cases for thirty-somethings and ages ten and under has doubled. Other age groups seem to be pretty level in terms of case incidents.

Approval has been given for public health nurses to conduct one-on-one visits at the Council on Aging with precautions in place. The adult day program has reopened. Staff and clients must be vaccinated to participate.

The supply of vaccines is still limited at the hospital. According to hospital representatives, this is a federal government supply, not a service issue. The Island is considered a State vaccination site, but 2017 census data is being used to base the allocation.

- Nitrogen Discussion

Ms. Valley confirmed to the commissioners that FAST systems will not be allowed under the proposed amendment to the Nitrogen regulations. The NitROE system will become the system of choice.

- Request to use Single Cesspool at 233 Greenwood Ave. / 26-D-31

Ms. Valley explained that the new owners of this formerly vacant property are working on upgrading the single cesspool to an advanced treatment system. They are asking to live in the dwelling while the system is designed and installed.

In the meantime, the cesspool passed a Title 5 inspection, and the inspector believes it can remain in service without issue until the new system is installed.

The commissioners voted to approve a six-month extension for the upgrade. The system must be in place by October 31, 2021.

- Eversource

Ms. Valley reported that, as in past years, she had sent a letter to Eversource requesting that they not spray glyphosate for vegetation mitigation along the power lines that run through Vineyard Haven. While waiting for a response, she will check with BOH representatives in Warwick, MA, on how they have successfully banned the use of glyphosate in their Town.

- BOH Fee Schedule

Ms. Valley requested the commissioners' approval to hold a hearing regarding BOH fee increases. She has confirmed that the fees will be aligned with those in other Island towns.

The commissioners approved the request to hold a hearing on May 11, 2021, at 4:30 PM.

- Other

The commissioners agreed that a letter requesting a \$10 million grant for food waste composting should be sent. Chairman Boyd will stop by the BOH office to sign the document.

Ms. Valley stated that she will be taking vacation the last week of April.

- Renovations – Phil Wallis / 59 Weaver Lane

Ms. Valley provided the existing plans and marked-up proposal to the commissioners before the meeting.

Mr. Chuck Sullivan, Architect, and Ms. Carolyn Wallis were in attendance. They presented their plan for switching an office space location with the kitchen due to the dangerous steps at the entrance. Ms. Valley explained that because it is not possible to construct a 7-foot opening to the new office space, it could be considered a potential bedroom, which the property is not allowed. They requested the commissioners' consideration for allowing the renovation with a deed restriction.

The commissioners voted to allow the renovation.

- Monitoring Wells @ Kuehn's Way

Mr. Derrill Bazy of Island Housing Trust, and Mr. Ross Seavey, Tisbury Building Inspector, were in attendance.

Ms. Valley reminded the commissioners of their previous order for Island Housing Trust to have monitoring wells installed and tested twice three months before construction of the septic system. The abutters recall that the samples were to be taken before the construction of the complex, not the installation of the septic system.

Due to recent vandalism to the wells, the installation of the two additional monitoring wells was delayed. They were installed on March 2, 2021 and have been tested once. IHT has contractors scheduled to begin foundation work on May 2, 2021, just two months after the well water installation. Mr. Bazy confirmed that the construction of the septic system would probably begin in October, and the system start-up would be in November or December.

Mr. Bazy confirmed that one round of testing at all eight monitoring wells – four new and four existing – was conducted last week. IHT will provide the results to the BOH and abutters next week. They are planning to do the second round of testing in September, and in approximately two weeks, the abutters' wells in Deer Hill will be tested.

The commissioners motioned to revise their previous condition to allow IHT to begin construction with the understanding that the second round of monitoring would be completed with the results submitted to the BOH and abutters before starting up the septic system. The motion was unanimously approved.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

General Updates

- Summer Camps

Ms. Blake reported that she is working with Camp Jabberwocky (for adults) to classify them according to COVID-19 orders. All clients and workers will be vaccinated. Ms. Blake and Ms. Valley will work together to establish guidelines for them.

Many other camps are calling for opening and certification information.

- Restaurants/Food Service

The Black Dog Tavern is opening tomorrow under new ownership.

According to many of her clients, Ms. Blake has been told that finding staff is challenging for restaurants.

The commissioners confirmed to Ms. Blake that she does not need to bring proposals for food trucks using The Larder as their commercial kitchen.

Ms. Nevette Previd is planning an oyster festival for 1,500 at Martha's Vineyard Museum in October, not long after the Vibrio season. Ms. Blake will schedule Ms. Previd to come before the commissioners to review the proposal at a future BOH meeting.

DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATION(S) (DWAs) FOR BOARD APPROVAL

DWA 4308 – Kristen Podufaly / 97 Hvoslef Way / 36-A-1.1 – Approved as a quorum according to current Nitrogen regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

- Well Permit – 40 William Norton Rd. / 40-A-22.1 - Approved
- Rabies Vaccine Exemption Renewals – Sasha & Alice Lau - Approved

BILLS AND PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned at approximately 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated April 13, 2021, as presented.

Date: _____ Signed:  _____
D4B3FA4AA889417...