

## **TOWN OF TISBURY**

*office of*

### **THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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

#### **MEETING MINUTES – June 14, 2022 – 4:00 PM**

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually. To join the Zoom meeting, enter: ID: 839 9100 0478, and Passcode: 764693. To join the meeting by phone, call 646-876-9923.

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

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

Guest: Louisa Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette

The meeting minutes for May 17, 2022, were approved as written.

#### **APPOINTMENTS – N/A**

#### **HEALTH AGENT REPORT**

- Covid update – Case numbers, including hospitalizations, appear to be going down again, and we're working on another vax bus visit in July. No date has been set yet. Jim Malkin, Dukes County board member of the Steamship Authority, will assist with ferry reservations, if necessary, but it won't be easy. It is still recommended that kids aged five and under receive vaccinations from their pediatrician.
- 9 Cook Road – Junk is being brought in again, and a homeless person lives in a vehicle on the property. The property owner, Taylor Wilson, has been ordered to clean up the property per the current court order. As of today, the car has been towed away. However, if the property is not cleared by next Tuesday, the DPW will go in with a dumpster to remove the rest of the junk. It may be necessary to file contempt charges, but a return call from our attorney is pending.

In the meantime, Mr. Wilson has been working with the community health workers through Island Health Care. They are trying to help him navigate paperwork and decisions around cleaning up the property.

- MassDEP regulatory strategy for impaired estuaries – MassDEP is looking to amend Title 5 regulations to address nitrogen removal in the impaired estuaries on the Cape and Islands. They will be looking for input from individual towns before implementing new regulations on the first of next year.
- Overcrowded housing – Our office continues to receive complaints about overcrowded housing, which is challenging to address. We send letters summarizing the complaints from abutters, i.e., overflowing trash bins, excessive traffic, and limited parking, but the notices are often ignored. Ross Seavey, the Tisbury building inspector, is following up with Counsel to get guidance on addressing this issue. Ms. Valley is planning to check with Nantucket's board of health agent to get information on their protocols. She will also make sure the Tisbury fire chief is included in future discussions. It may be worth considering adoption of a regulation stating that no more than (2) people per bedroom is allowed in a rental dwelling.

4:12 PM - Commissioner Boyd joined the meeting.

- PFAS – Adam Turner, MVCS, is planning to schedule a discussion-only meeting.
- Racism as a public health issue – A forum will take place tomorrow to allow the camps to discuss their issues and help to devise a pilot program for implementation this camp season. Ms. Valley will be in attendance as an observer.
- Lyme Disease vax study – A discussion of Martha's Vineyard's participation in the Pfizer Lyme Disease vaccine trials is ongoing. More information should be available later this week.
- W. Spring Street drainage – Ms. Valley confirmed that there is no failed system at the Tisbury School. The system in the playground, closest to the W. Spring St. storm drain system, was abandoned several years ago when that side of the school was tied into the municipal sewer system. However, we have identified four failed septic systems in that immediate area, which have been upgraded (see attached map). An additional property with a failed system on Heath Hen Lane has been identified, and a new plan has been approved, but it has not yet been installed. I have contacted the wastewater department to ask them to collect samples after the next rainfall so we can test for fecal coliform and potentially send them off for DNA testing. The wastewater department was also going to reach out to Bob Rafferty about renting the equipment to test for surfactants.
- Owen Little Way – We will continue to post precautionary 24-hour closures after measurable rain. We obtained a map of the stormwater drainage system that feeds into Owen Little Way (see attached) and identified 56 properties abutting that system. Letters were sent requiring septic inspections for those properties without a current Title 5 report on file. Of the 56 properties, 36 are compliant, one property has a pending septic installation, one property is currently vacant with a new system design in progress, and 20 properties have not yet submitted inspections. However, 10 of those property owners have inspections scheduled. We will continue to work on getting the rest of the systems into compliance.

Additional note - Addressing potential septic issues will not resolve the fecal coliform/road runoff issues at either Owen Little Way or W. Spring Street. It will only ensure that the presence of fecal matter is not from human waste. The stormwater drainage systems will need to be upgraded in some form to address contamination from road runoff.

## **ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT UPDATE**

- General updates

Beach testing starts next week. A few unsubstantiated food poisoning claims have been received and investigated. Several requests for shared kitchens have been intercepted and stopped.

## **DWAs (DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATIONS) FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

**4368** - Brandon Brookes - 9 Chapde Lane / 14-B-1.32 - The plan is for a proposed NitROE system for the addition of a guest house in the Lagoon Pond watershed; however, there is not enough land area for a guest house, a zoning issue. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proposal with the understanding that their approval is not an endorsement of the plan for a guest house.

**4373** - Pia Gero - 233 Greenwood Ave. / 26-D-31 – Proposal for a NitROE system to upgrade a failed system in the Tashmoo watershed. -Approved unanimously.

**4377** - Douglas Burke - 184 Winyah Lane / 14-B-11 – Proposal for a NitROE system to upgrade a failed system in the Lagoon Pond watershed. -Approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY2023 committee appointments:**

Land Bank Advisory – Malcolm Boyd

Site Plan Review – Jeff Pratt

Sewer Advisory – Jeff Pratt

Water Resources – Michael Loberg

Cabinet – Jeff Pratt

### **Appointments made by the Health Agent for period of 5/1/22 – 4/30/23:**

Animal Inspectors – Catie Blake and Kate Hoffman

## **BILLS AND PERMITS FOR APPROVAL**

USPS / box rental / \$212

With no further business to conduct, the commissioners adjourned at 5:00 PM.


Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek  
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated June 14, 2022, as presented.

Date: 7/14/2022

Signed:  DocuSigned by:  
Jeff Pratt  
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