

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health
May 3, 2016**

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The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 pm at Carlisle Town Hall. Present were Board members Bill Risso (Chairman), Lee Storrs, Catherine Galligan, Todd Thorsen and Donna Margolies. Also present Linda Fantasia (Health Agent), and Alex Brewster (Carlisle Mosquito)

BILLS – It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Storrs) to approve the bills as submitted (Well Inspector). Motion passed 5-0-0.

MINUTES – It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Thorsen) to approve the minutes of 11/18/14 as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0. There is no record of these minutes having been previously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Local Public Health Institute “Orientation for Local Public Health” – June 21, 8:30-3 Tower Hill in Boylston. There is no cost.

ZIKA – MDPH provides weekly updates on the number of calls received. There is no change in the guidelines.

Carlisle Public Schools – An Operations & Maintenance procedure for sampling and a Lead Corrosion Control Plan were submitted to DEP. The items were noted as deficiencies during the last state inspection.

Rabies Clinic 2016 – A final report was submitted to the Board.

Well Testing 5/14/16 – The sampling is scheduled for May 14th between 9 and noon. There has been a good response with up to 21 households signed up. ETR Laboratories is doing the sampling.

239 Lowell Street – A reminder letter was sent to the owners that system needs to be upgraded before 6/30/16 in keeping with the permit and septic loan conditions.

PREVENTION OF OPIOID ABUSE – Chief Fisher appeared before the Board to request support of a local initiative on preventing opioid abuse. A number of area police departments are forming the Central Middlesex Police Program (CMPP). The purpose of the CMPP is twofold: make treatment rather than arrest the first response from police and provide Narcan (Naloxene), an opioid antidote, to police officers and families of prescription drug abusers. This is under the auspices of the jail diversion program. Fisher said the number of deaths from prescription drug abuse has increased dramatically with over 1500 deaths in the Commonwealth last year. The administration of Narcan can be a life saver. Fisher would like the support of the Board of Health on this project. The exact

curriculum has yet to be planned out. The initiative will be announced at an upcoming community forum “Rising OPIOID epidemic in our community” which is being held at the Concord Carlisle High School on May 16 at 6 pm and is being sponsored by Emerson Hospital.

Board members were impressed with the program and offered to write a letter of support for the Chief. Galligan pointed out that while it is important to treat drug abusers it is just as important to keep people from starting. More needs to be done to remove drugs from homes and from being over-prescribed. Fisher said residents can dispose of any drugs (except liquid) at the Carlisle Police Station. The program, which is confidential, has been successful in removing prescription drugs from the home.

It was moved (Storrs) and seconded (Galligan) to support the Central Middlesex Police Program’s Court Diversion Program of providing anti-opioid abuse interventions at the local level. Motion passed 5-0-0. The Board will also write a Letter of Support.

MAVEN (MA Virtual Epidemiologic Network) – Jean Barry, M. D. (Lyme Disease Subcommittee) appeared before the Board to talk about a proposed project to evaluate cases of tick borne diseases (TBD) reported on MAVEN, a web-based surveillance system for disease reporting and investigation. She would like to compare cases of tick borne disease that residents have self-reported with those listed on MAVEN. Under-reporting of TBD continues to be a problem and it is important to have accurate numbers for responding. The project should help to identify gaps in the system. A summary of the results will be shared with the Dept. of Public Health. Barry further explained that TBD can be difficult to diagnose which can affect the reporting. Testing is not particularly sensitive. Many patients end up with a soft diagnosis based on clinical symptoms which is not reported to MAVEN. Barry said this is not designed as a formal study but meant to be a starting point to get accurate numbers on cases in Carlisle. A number of residents have volunteered their information. Only Barry and Fantasia will work on the project and individuals will not be identified. The Board agreed that many families in Carlisle have been affected by TBD and that the proposed data extract may result better case management. The Board supported the project.

BENFIELD FARMS – FAST System Test Results. Toby Kramer of NOAH appeared before the Board. She announced that she will be retiring in May and there will be a new representative from NOAH. The latest test results continue to show improvement in the FAST system. The MicroC carbon feed to the system still requires adjustments but is definitely improving. An email from Mike Moreau of Waste Treatment Systems (WTS) indicated that the last quarterly (March) monitoring well reports were within state and local limits. Kramer said Benfield would still be under contract with WTS but would like to use local staff to monitor the system. Risso wanted to know how much longer before the system is stabilized. Kramer said this is difficult to predict but everything is pointing in that direction. The monitoring wells are not showing any problems. Galligan said it would take time for the monitoring wells to be affected. Storrs questioned how often the system requires adjustments. He noted they are adding significant amounts of Alkalinity. The summary report noted that there have also been some technical glitches such as a drum running dry from unanticipated pumping. A new drum has been put online.

Given the difficult start up process, Galligan questioned the long term capabilities of the system. She referred to a report¹ that indicated the FAST system encountered difficulties in meeting discharge limits long term. Thorsen agreed that the system appears to be having difficulty reaching a stable performance and requires a considerable amount of adjustment and effort. Risso was concerned that some of the numbers on the summary report did not make sense. The lab results for April 14th do not match the summary sheet. The report indicates two exceedances: 4/6/16 32.87 and 4/14/16 25.85. There are some missing lab results. The quarterly monitoring report submitted to DEP was based on the 3/31/16 results not the 4/6/16 exceedance. Board would like this reviewed and corrected if necessary. DEP should be made aware of the exceedance on 4/6/16.

Risso asked about odors around the manhole. Kramer said there have been no complaints. The Board suggested a silicone seal around the manhole cover instead of only a gasket at the bolt.

¹Reference: US EPA Environmental Technology Initiative Onsite Wastewater Technology Testing Report August 2004. http://buzzardsbay.org/etistuff/results/finalfast08_04.pdf

The Board agreed that it would like more guidance from the state on what steps need to happen if a system fails to meet its approved discharge limits. Kramer asked the Board to consider reducing the testing to every other week. The Board agreed that the system has improved significantly since its initial startup and is close to meeting the goal of three successful test results. Reducing the testing schedule to every other week is not unreasonable.

It was moved (Thorsen) and seconded (Storrs) to alter the required FAST System testing at Benfield Farms to every other week as of May 3, 2016. Motion passed 5-0-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Warrant Articles

Recall of Elected Officials – The proposed bylaw provides a process for recalling an elected official. Currently the town has no procedures in place. Most other towns have a process. The Board discussed examples of when this might be used. Board members did not understand some of the language in the bylaw and its applicability. They would have liked a presentation prior to being asked for a position. Rather than voting on a position, Risso suggested polling members. In favor of the article: Risso, Storrs; not in favor: Thorsen, Galligan, Margolies. Those not in favor were in support of the general idea of having a town approved recall procedure but felt there were too many unanswered questions to take a position on the article as presented.

Site Plan Review Bylaw – Board members agreed that the Planning Board had made a compelling case for realigning the approval process from the Selectmen to the Planning Board. Board members unanimously supported the Article.

Horsley-Witten Groundwater Study – Risso explained that Scott Horsley agreed to adjust the cost of the study to \$4800 in keeping with the amended contract. Horsley has agreed to provide an additional table showing the impacts of 4” and 6” of dilution for no additional cost. If the Board decides to move forward with revising its regulations, Horsley would be available for future meetings at a cost. Board members discussed whether Horsley, who teaches at Tufts University, might have a student interested in compiling the May 14, 2016 well testing results. Risso, who is leaving the Board for a position on the Board of Selectmen, recommended that the Board continue to explore Horsley’s findings and recommendations.

Irrigation Policy – Galligan updated the narrative and calculations using a 9” recharge rate rather than the 20” identified in the Banta Davis Study. The Board noted that this will have a large effect on the number of days of irrigation. The Board also questioned whether it was appropriate to apply the same formula for all of Carlisle since soils may vary and how to include properties that might have more than one well. Most properties probably use the drinking well. The Board agreed to ask Rob Frado to provide more detail on soil classifications found in Carlisle in order to have a better measure on recharge rates throughout the town. The Board agreed that this is a starting point. It is important to have a policy on irrigation withdrawal rates so that determining the allowable rate for an irrigation system does not become a negotiation. The Board will continue with a 15% cap on irrigation. This was the limit applied at Garrison Place which the Board is using as a precedent. The Board needs to be consistent in applying its policy but an owner could always demonstrate different soils or a different recharge rate. The Board might consider varying its policy in such cases.

Summer Hours – Town Hall will have extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and will close on Friday at noon. Departments are expected to ensure they meet their regular work hours. The Board agreed to meet on Wednesdays rather than Tuesdays for the summer.

Appreciation to Risso – Since this was his last official meeting, the Board thanked Risso for his many years of service to the Board and to the Town. Risso has been an elected official of the Board of Health for ten years. He is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. The election will be held on May 17th.

There was no further business. Meeting voted to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Fantasia,
Recorder