

**Minutes of the
Carlisle Board of Health
May 30, 2019, 7:00 PM
Carlisle Town Hall – Nickels Room**

Minutes
Bills
Administrative Reports

NEW BUSINESS

MDPH Internship – Fanta Cherif

- Pesticide Awareness Project

Benfield Farms – septic system status report – Mark Beaudry and Phil Giffie

ONGOING BUSINESS

129 Fiske Street – System Upgrade Status Report
21-23 Bedford Road – proposed barn renovations (to be rescheduled)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at town hall. Present: Todd Thorsen (chairman), Lee Storrs, Donna Margolies, Tony Mariano, Cathy Galligan; Linda Fantasia (Health Agent)

MINUTES – It was moved (Margolies) and seconded (Storrs) to approve the Minutes of 5/2/19. Motion passed 3-0-2. (Galligan and Mariano were not members)

BILLS –It was moved (Galligan), seconded (Storrs) to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 5-0-0. Galligan suggested authorizing her to sign the next payroll which is due before the next meeting. The Board agreed. **It was moved (Galligan), seconded (Storrs) to authorize Cathy Galligan to sign the next staff payroll. Motion passed 5-0-0. It was moved (Storrs) and seconded (Galligan) to approve the annual stipend (\$1000) for the Animal Inspector. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Region 4AB PHEP Funding – Carlisle will be purchasing 3 wall mounted multi-use Stop the Bleed Kits (Town Hall, Library, Police Station). The Region will also be purchasing leg trainer kits. Tricia McGean is an approved trainer and will arrange classes for town employees and possibly the public. The School has already purchased STB Kits.

MA DPH – The Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health has released a draft report on its recommendations. The report is available at www.mass.gov/dph/olrh. Comments will be accepted through Many 31st. Memo in books.

Upcoming Workshops - Region 4AB Emergency Dispensing Site Workshop (6/6/19 9-4 in Natick). Fantasia and Gines will attend.

Board of Selectmen – issued a Draft Policy on Personnel Change Requests that provides timelines for submitting requests involving grade changes, new positions, changes in hours, changes in job description. This is intended to provide sufficient time to address budget impacts.

Old Home Day – Activities include Emergency prepared (50 *Be Prepared Bags* are available), a pesticide awareness survey, Sun Protection (Impact Melanoma Group in Concord), and Tick Borne Disease information.

ONGOING BUSINESS

129 Fiske Street- septic system upgrade. Fantasia reported that David Schofield, P. E. will be submitting a redesign using a GeoMat Alternative Technology to replace the existing system which is in failure. This was

verified by a recent Title 5 Inspection. The Title 5 report has not yet been filed with the Board. The system must be replaced by 11/30/19 since the failure was first identified in 2016 and the upgrade is already overdue.

NEW BUSINESS

PESTICIDE AWARENESS PROJECT – Fantasia introduced Fanta Cherif of the Boston University School of Public Health to the Board. Cherif will be doing a summer internship sponsored by MA DPH with the Board. Her project will involve researching current information on the health and environmental risks associated with pesticides, gathering data on pesticide usage in town, and collecting model policies and regulations from other towns. Cherif will be contacting local garden groups, community farmers, and beekeepers. It was suggested that she contact Dan Cook, a local resident, who knows most of the local beekeepers. Cherif will be preparing a short survey to distribute at the Old Home Day Booth on 6/22/19. The Board thanked Cherif for her interest in working on the project and offered its help. Former Board Member Todd Brady has offered to continue as project mentor. Fantasia will assist as project coordinator.

Fantasia then introduced resident Nancy Pirman-Weiss who experienced an accidental exposure to pesticide spray last summer from a company (Mosquito Squad) treating a neighbor's yard. Pirman-Weiss provided the Board with a detailed chronology of her experience, ongoing health problems as a result of the exposure and steps she has taken to address the problem with the company and the state. The MA Dept. of Agriculture (MDAR) sent out an inspector who tested vegetation from both properties. Pirman-Weiss has not been able to obtain copies of the results. After doing her own research, she is concerned that pesticide products are not closely regulated by the EPA and that companies may be substituting cheaper alternatives and bypassing the cancer warnings. Pirman-Weiss also believes that the town should have access to the safety data sheets for pesticide products used in town in case of exposure to a resident. This would require access to a 24/7 medical professional such as a Public Health Nurse which may be unrealistic. Pirman-Weiss said she has seen an increase in dead birds in her neighborhood and is concerned about the aquatic life at the nearby Greenough Pond. MDAR tested the pond but Pirman-Weiss has not seen the results. She believes that the small fine imposed by the State on abusive companies is not a deterrent.

Pirman-Weiss requested that the Board consider the following actions:

- Local licensing of any pesticide application company operating in Carlisle
- Collect the Safety Data Sheets
- Check that the company is following the label directions
- Provide access to a medical professional 24/7.
- Enforce required buffers from wetlands and water bodies
- Consider a ban on pesticide use
- Educate homeowners on alternatives (Tick Tubes) and verify companies that they hire are following the rules.

Board members expressed different opinions on the best course of action. Not all interventions for dealing with mosquitoes and ticks are successful or practical. Personal protection with products such as DEET can be helpful if the directions are followed. Changing individual behaviors is not always easy so having a local policy or regulation might be of more help. At various times the question of joining a Mosquito Control Project (MCP) has been brought to town meeting but it has never passed. The Board believes that the data collected from the summer internship project will provide a good basis for deciding whether the Board should adopt a policy or regulation or to continue with education. The Board suggested Pirman-Weiss approach the Conservation Commission about enforcing pesticide application setbacks to wetlands. The Board also noted that any company working in town should be able to provide Safety Data Sheets if requested. It is assumed that the companies are licensed. The Board thanked Pirman-Weiss for her very detailed testimony and asked that she keep the Board informed of any test results she receives from the state.

BENFIELD FARMS – Present for the discussion: Mark Beaudry (Meridian Engineering) and Phil Giffey (NOAH).

Giffee said that the most important thing is to find out what is happening with the leaching field. NOAH has every intention of fixing the problem. Giffee said Beaudry has complete authority to manage the task and act on NOAH's behalf. Beaudry explained that he had not prepared a written report since the meeting with all of the parties only took place today. He will submit a report as requested. Attendees at the meeting included Beaudry, Giffee, Small System Water Service (SWSS), Alan Pelky (Peabody Properties), Mike Moreau of Waste Treatment Services (WTS). Oakson, Inc. the Perc-Rite vendor was not present but has visited the site and is familiar with the problem.

SWSS has agreed to do additional water sampling from different ports in the apartments, particularly those having odor problems. They will check that the Operations & Maintenance Manual is up to date. There is a water softener, but it has not been serviced for five years. If there are continuing problems with the water, the water supply may need enhanced treatment. This would have to be approved by DEP since the well is a Public Water Supply (PWS).

As for the FAST System, WTS will work on the overdue Compliance Well monitoring, effluent quality results, vent repairs and manhole covers. All of the Compliance Wells have been located in the field. The next sampling will be done in June. If there are exceedances in CW 1 or 2, CW 3 which is closer to the PWS will be tested.

Beaudry then reported that there is no breakout currently in the leaching area. This may be due to the fact that the 24,000 gals. septic tank was recently pumped. It will take around 12 days for the tanks to fill again. Since there is no surface breakout at the moment, there is nothing to test in the field area. If there is breakout, Beaudry will take a grab sample. WTS also checked the Micro-C supplementary feed system which is now working properly. It had been left unattended recently causing a Nitrate spike in the treated effluent. Giffee agreed to make residents aware of the work being done on the system and how they can help to keep the system running properly. A list of products that should not be flushed has been distributed. New residents receive a handbook when they move in. It was suggested that this could be re-distributed on a regular basis to all residents.

Beaudry said he had replaced the Warning Signs and caution tape around the field as required by the Board. He is looking into a different type of cover for the manholes which are not properly sealed. This allows odors to exit to the atmosphere. As for the Bio-Vent, Beaudry suspects that the vent pipe may have become partially inundated with water from a drainpipe that it crosses. This could result in enough condensation to interfere with the air flow. He does not believe it is a groundwater issue. The woodchips have also disintegrated badly, preventing air from moving through them which is the point of the system. At a previous meeting it was determined that the Bio-Vent System requires more than annual landscaping. The work should be done by a professional installer familiar with such systems. Beaudry is considering relocating the vent which runs over a drainpipe to a different location. He would like to use the same installer to do the work. This may be an expensive retrofit. The work would need to be approved by the Conservation Commission since it is in the Buffer Zone. The Board noted that the supplemental systems (Bio-Vent and Micro-C feed) are not included in the O&M Manual. Beaudry agreed to add them along with any special maintenance conditions.

Giffee said he still needs to follow up with Mitsubishi on operation and performance of the HVAC. The ducts have all been cleaned and sealed which may help with the air quality issue. It is not certain that the air quality problem has been resolved. Members on the site visit noted that the high pitch tone near the FAST blower was not heard.

The Board then asked the audience for comments. E. Vasquez suggested distributing the septic "Do's and Don'ts" to all tenants once a year. M. Deary who is on the Housing Trust asked that the Trust chair be kept informed of anything pertaining to Benfield Farms.

Fantasia asked whether the Board wanted to issue a Notice of Non-Compliance (NON) to Benfield Farms. Since the owner (NOAH) is actively engaged in correcting the problems, this would be for the public record. No fines would be involved at this time. Town counsel recommends taking a vote on the issue. Board members agreed it would be better to have everything on the record. The recent outbreak in the field which triggers a failure under Title 5 is not the only non-compliance issues involving Benfield. There have been a number of the water and air quality problems and frequent exceedances in the wastewater treatment discharge limits. The NON would be issued to the owner and copied to DEP. NOAH will be arranging for a full Title 5 Inspection to be done to document the functioning of all of the septic system components. The tank also needs pumping. Beaudry pointed out that a lot has been learned in the industry as a result of the Benfield Farms experiences. Improvements in the design have been made. Newer

FAST Systems are including a supplemental feed system should it be necessary. Beaudry said the design of the treatment unit would probably be twice the size of the one installed under the original design specifications for Benfield. Certain components would have been much larger. Giffey said it was unfortunate to have such a steep and expensive learning curve when the Alternative Technologies were intended to be a benefit to the environment and not just for cost savings. NOAH will stand behind the system until it is operating correctly.

It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Storrs) to issue a Notice of Non-Compliance to the Neighborhood of Affordable Homes for Benfield Farms, 575 South Street, Carlisle MA as a result of the failure of the onsite Sewage Disposal System to meet the Carlisle Board of Health Special Permit Conditions granted December 14, 2012 and failure to protect the public health and environment as stipulated in 310 CMR 15.00 (Title 5) and as currently being addressed by the property owner.

MEETING DATES – The Board agreed to cancel June 13th due to scheduling conflicts.

There was no further business. Meeting voted to adjourn at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M Fantasia,
Recorder

(All documents discussed during this meeting are available for review upon request in the office of the Board of Health)