

TOWN OF HARWICH



BOARD OF HEALTH

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**TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020-6:30 P.M.
HARWICH TOWN HALL – REMOTE MEETING**

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Pamela Howell, R.N., Member Ron Dowgiallo, D.M.D., Member Matthew Antoine & Member Kevin DuPont, R.N.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairwoman Sharon Pflieger

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Health Director Meggan Eldredge, Senior Health Agent Kathleen Tenaglia & Executive Assistant Jennifer Clarke

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Harwich Board of Health is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

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Ms. Howell introduced and welcomed Kevin DuPont as the newest member of the Board of Health.

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Howell called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Regular Meeting Minutes) – August 18, 2020

Mr. Dowgiallo moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 Board of Health meeting, 2nd by Mr. Antoine. The vote was 3-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

III 6:30 PM - BOARD OF HEALTH WORK SESSION

A. Continued review of draft Town of Harwich Nutrient and Pesticide Control Bylaw/Education (continued from May 19, 2020 Board of Health meeting).

At their May 19, 2020 meeting, the Board of Health had discussions regarding the creation of a nutrient and pesticide control bylaw or education. At this point, the Board needs to have open discussions on how they would like to move forward. Health Director Eldredge suggested that the Board could consider creating a sub-committee to work on this.

Mr. Dowgiallo stated that what has been provided in the packet looks good to him.

Ms. Howell wondered if there is more that the Board could do.

Mr. DuPont asked what the Board's limitations and expectations are. Health Director Eldredge responded that the regulation on pesticide would be for town-owned property. With respect to pesticides, there is a law that prohibits states and towns to further impose laws on private property. Fertilizer regulations and discussion would be relating to both town-owned and private property. Mr. DuPont asked if there would be a way to find out what kinds of fertilizers private homeowners are using. He would like to see education and feels that it is safe to say that a large part of the population is not aware of what goes into their fertilizers.

Ms. Howell stated that the Town of Chatham request anyone who distributes/uses fertilizer be certified. She asked if the Town of Harwich has any literature. Health Agent Tenaglia responded that that educational material could be created but added that she is not sure how possible enforcement of the education would be. Health Agent Tenaglia added that the Board could develop a sub-committee to help develop literature.

Mr. DuPont agreed with all information presented and said that he would like to see the education aspect expanded.

Ms. Howell stated that she would like to have the input of Ms. Pflieger before making any decisions. She suggested continuing discussions until the October 20, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

B. Sewer Connection Discussion-Finalize Application & discuss extension requirements

Health Director Eldredge reviewed the sewer connection application.

Mr. Dowgiallo moved to approve the use of the sewer connection application as presented, 2nd by Mr. Antoine. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Mr. Dowgiallo, Mr. Antoine & Mr. DuPont all voting aye by roll call.

Health Director Eldredge stated that the current regulations allow for 1-year from the order letter issued that will require property owners to connect into the municipal sewer. If the Board is willing to consider extension requests, they should consider how old the existing septic system is, financial hardships and/or any special circumstances. Health Director Eldredge recommended that the Board approve extensions for any septic system less than 10 years old. It would then be a discussion of the Board as to

how long of an extension would be granted. If the Board is going to consider financial hardships as an extension, they should know that there are very low interest loans available through Barnstable County.

Ms. Howell stated that she would like to have Ms. Pflieger involved in this discussion as well and suggested continuing discussions until the October 20, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked what the cost would be to connect to the sewer system. The last numbers that Ms. Eldredge was aware of are between \$7,000-\$12,000.

Once a property is connected to the sewer system, the owners will receive a sewer bill, similar to a water bill, based on flow.

Health Director Eldredge informed the Board that she would find out how many in Chatham have been connected into the system and any updated cost information.

C. Review Board of Health definition of a bedroom with possible amendments

Health Director Eldredge read the current definition and suggested definition of a bedroom. The existing definition is unclear to builders and homeowners when they are creating their floor plans. The definition needs to be clearer and more concise so floor plans can be created without issue. Staff has researched bedrooms definitions from surrounding towns and information has been provided to the Board.

Mr. Antoine moved to adopt the suggested Harwich Board of Health bedroom definition as presented, 2nd by Mr. DuPont. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Mr. Dowgiallo, Mr. Antoine & Mr. DuPont all voting aye by roll call.

V NEW BUSINESS

A. 11 Kent Road- owner requests Board of Health review of an application to the State Plumbing Board for a variance from the State Plumbing Code; use an existing 1 1/2" drain where a 2" drain is required

Health Director Eldredge read the request that was submitted. She informed the Board that the owner bypassed the Board of Health and went straight to the State Plumbing Board and had their application approved.

The Board of Health did not take any action.

VII REPORT OF THE HEALTH DIRECTOR (August 2020)

Health Director Eldredge read her monthly report for August 2020. As of today, there is one active case in Harwich.

Barnstable County is holding a drive-thru seasonal flu shot clinic on September 26, 2020 from 8:00 a.m.-noon. The clinic is open to all residents across the Cape and pre-registration is required.

VIII CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was discussed.

IX PERMITS

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS
TITLE 5 INSPECTOR	
Thomas Roux *	Wareham, MA
* 2020 Renewal	

Mr. Antoine moved to approve the permit list as presented, 2nd by Mr. Dowgiallo. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Mr. Dowgiallo, Mr. Antoine & Mr. DuPont all voting aye by roll call.

X OTHER

Mr. Dowgiallo asked how the town follows people who have recovered from COVID-19. Health Director Eldredge responded that they are not followed at the Health Department level. The patients information is in the state database should future issues arise.

XI ADJOURN

Mr. Dowgiallo moved to adjourn the meeting at p.m., 2nd by Mr. DuPont. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Mr. Dowgiallo, Mr. Antoine & Mr. DuPont all voting aye by roll call.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clarke

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Documents included in September 14, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Packet:

- Board of Health Agenda dated September 14, 2020
- Draft Board of Health Minutes dated August 18, 2020
- Draft Town of Harwich Nutrient and Pesticide Control By-Law dated November 4, 2009
- Draft Application and Checklist for Sewer Connection Permit
- Bedroom Definition Information dated September 14, 2020
- Site Summary for 11 Kent Road dated September 14, 2020
- Request from Owner for Plumbing Code Variance dated August 24, 2020
- Health Director Monthly Report dated September 8, 2020
- Weekly COVID-19 update dated August 27, 2020
- Weekly COVID-10 update dated August 20, 2020
- Any other documents submitted for/at the September 14, 2020 Board of Health Meeting