

JAN 17 2024

By:  TOWN CLERK**Minutes of the Truro Board of Health, Tuesday December 19, 2023**

This was a hybrid meeting; members of the Board and staff were in person at Truro Town Hall in the Select Board chambers.

Board members in attendance: Chair Tracey Rose, Vice Chair Jason Silva; Board Members: Helen Grimm, Brian Koll and Alternate Member Candida Monteith; Absent: Member Tim Rose. Also Present: Health Agent Emily Beebe, Assistant Health Agent Courtney Warren.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by the Chair, who described the remote meeting procedures and the process for public participation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Title 5/Local variance request: An upgrade design plan for Anna & Graham Poor, owner of 14 Salt Marsh Lane, was presented by Jason Ellis. The property has two residential structures (a Cottage and a Studio building) that are currently served by cesspools. The property is located in the Pamet River watershed, and the Local coastal wetland resources setback requirements cannot be met for the proposed upgrade design. Because the separation to the wetland resource areas has been maximized, and there are no other alternatives, the Board felt the Standard of review had been met. It was noted by the designer that the property owner is aware of future I/A requirements for this property since it is in the Pamet watershed. **Motion:** Board member Brian Koll moved to approve the local variance request; **Second:** Board member Jason Silva; **Vote:** 4-0-1, with alternate Board member Candida Monteith abstaining. The motion carried.

Discussion: Local upgrade requirements for Cesspools- The Health Agent described the current status of the Cesspool upgrade project, with reference to the 4 buckets. Bucket #1 are properties permitted for installation, total 14. Bucket #2 are properties approved by issuance of an ACO, total # 10. Bucket # 3 are properties with design plans underway, or approved and not yet permitted, total # 53. Bucket #4 includes properties that have not made progress, although only 3 or 4 of these have made no contact with the Town. 87 Properties have completed their projects. Board of Health member Jason Silva said that he was pleased with the progress. Jason Ellis was asked for comments, and he felt that after the initial overwhelm, the project moved forward smoothly. When asked by the Chair about the revised Title 5 requirements, he said that the conversation does generate some panic from his clients due to the cost, and that it's confusing to have each Town following a different program.

The extended timetable is as follows:

- **Bucket #1** - installation should be completed by 9/1/2024.
- **Bucket #2** - Completion of ACO by 6/1/2024
- **Bucket #3**- completion of plans by 5/1/2024, and installation completed by no more than 9 months after the permit date.

There was discussion about how the septic permits were issued, and whether 9 months to install the systems was perhaps too much time? Board member Jason Silva added that the Board of Health was moving forward with a leap of faith that the property owners in Bucket 3, or, those "working in good faith" would get the job done in 9 months! Board member Brian Koll agreed that 9 months was arbitrary but suggested that it seemed like ample time for folks to succeed and come into compliance. The Chair agreed and asked the Agent to ensure that property owners be

informed that they should not wait for the last minute, because everyone will be looking for work to be done by the same vendors! She stressed: “education, education, education” for the public about the timing. **Motion:** Board member Helen Grimm moved to approve the compliance schedule for property owners, as outlined; **Second:** Board member Brian Koll; **Vote:** 5-0, the motion carried.

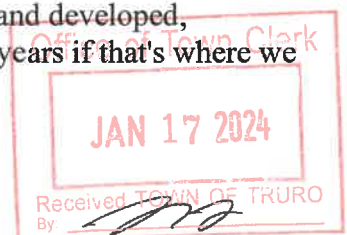
Discussion: Water Resources Report- (48:30) The Agent provided a narrative report about the work for 2024 between Truro and Provincetown. Under the Provincetown Water system IMA is a requirement for a Master Plan that describes improvements, upgrades, distribution, and expansion. Provincetown has been working with the engineering firm EPG, who developed their Master plan, and updates the plan every 5 years. The Master plan does need to include a more detailed work plan for the addition of a water tank in Truro, (infrastructure that has been planned and has preliminary designs) fire flows, and expansion into Pond Village to address water quality concerns. Staff is in discussion about the Master plan revision scope, and about developing estimates for this work. The IMA also requires development of a watershed plan. The Agent was clear to distinguish the plan pertaining to the Pamet lens watershed. The Pamet River watershed will be evaluated as part of the CWMP. This work may be informed by a modeling review currently underway by McDonald Morrissey to inform our understanding of safe yield, especially within the context of sodium uptake and sea level rise.

The Agent reported they were optimistic, and work with Provincetown staff was going well. The 2 towns are simultaneously looking at water and wastewater, together.

Board member Helen Grimm suggested that the Board circle back to discussing water resources, and the Walsh property, which has an important role in how we partner with Provincetown. She suggested that we need to imagine not having it (various levels of development at Walsh) and having it. The Agent suggested that the Board talk about this as the Walsh property is the subject of LCP goals to develop the property in different ways. The Agent suggested that even though there are some recommendations, development is still conceptual, and the Town is pursuing more information about safe yield of the water supply. There are no development “plans” because we are in a conceptual discussion, however, we still need to understand the development capacity for the property relative to water and wastewater. The Walsh property is in Zone 2 of the of the Provincetown municipal water system. Scott Horsely has opined about how we can plan development here with a wastewater plan to reduce the net nitrogen in Zone two.

The Agent referred to a meeting of the WELLFLEET community forum on December 18, and the tape should be on the Town website. The discussion was about a proposed development on Lawrence Road where they propose new housing with a wastewater treatment system that would include the school, and the adjacent public safety buildings and the neighborhood. The Agent suggested that we can do these things, but we need to learn how to talk to each other. What's the best way to move forward AND answer our questions? We have questions, but/and we have options. But we need folks to ask questions instead of making assumptions-- and instead of making up their own story about what is true.

There are rules and regulations about how Public water supplies are used and developed, maintained, and operated. What will happen will be phased in over many years if that's where we go. There will be a good amount of process.



The Agent suggested that the Board of Health should continue to talk about the Walsh property. In summary, the truth is that the Town is looking at some recommendations that are conceptual and meanwhile the Town has to absolutely pursue the science.

There was a question from Alternate Board member Candida Montieth about a development threshold described when acquisition of the Walsh, which included its suitability for building 26 single family homes, where that came from, and how the level of development changed.

The Agent suggested that the reference likely pertains to a possible development scenario based on nitrogen loading. The Chair also responded, reminding the Board of the history, that included the formation of a committee to discuss how the property could be used by the community.

Report of the Chair-

Chair Tracey Rose described her ideas for agenda items in January.

- The Chair referenced a recording of the water resources discussion hosted by the Climate Action Committee and hopes to see it put up on the Town's website, as it was very informative.
- She suggested that we look at revisiting the discussion regulating activities in the Zone 2's.
- The election of Board of Health officers will need to be voted on in January so get ready.
- The Board needs to discuss the proposed stormwater and erosion control bylaw. The Chair informed the Board that a citizen presented a proposed amendment of the article to the Moderator, before the Fall special was adjourned.

She asked Courtney Warren for an update on the previous Provincetown Water and Sewer Board meeting. Courtney said there would be a hearing in January to discuss raising the sewer betterment fee. She also reported that even as the Cape is out of drought, the islands are still in drought, something the PWD is keeping an eye on.

Health Agent's Report- The Agent is working on the end of the year Town report. As far as future Agenda Items she suggested that the managers regulation should be on the list. Also, in the near future she will be providing an update on PFAs, and Stones Throw. The Board can expect an update with DPW director Jarrod Cabral in January regarding operations/contracts about Solid waste.

Susan Areson from the Select Board, was in attendance at the meeting, and the Chair thanked Sue for her work, and wished her Happy New Year. (Susan Areson is the Select Board Liaison to the Board of Health.

Board member Jason Silva moved to adjourn the meeting; Second: Board member Helen Grimm Silva; Vote: 5-0-0, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Beebe



Board of Health minutes: December 19, 2023

