

TRURO BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF REMOTE MEETING HELD MARCH 2, 2021

Board members in attendance: Chair Tracey Rose; Members Jason Silva, Brian Koll, Helen Grimm; alternate Candida Monteith; Member Tim Rose called in at 4:45.

Also Present: DPW Director Jarrod Cabral; Health and Conservation Agent Emily Beebe

The meeting was called order at 4:33.

The Chair announced the procedures for the remote meeting.

3 Dune Way- Title 5 Variance Hearing; This matter was continued from February 22, and the Chair informed the Board that the applicant requested a further continuance to obtain water test results. There was some question about what the date would be for the next Board meeting, which was to be discussed later in the agenda.

**Motion:** to continue move the variance request to later in the meeting.

Moved by Jason Silva; seconded by the Chair, unanimously in favor by roll call vote, 4-0.

44 Fisher Road- variance request; Ron Peterson was present to discuss the request for the property owner. The plans from 1986 showed a variance requested between the septic leaching area and the proposed well. The current request was for 22' variance for the new well, as 78-foot separation is provided.

The Agent discussed the direction of groundwater flow, which appears to be flowing from east to west, and the alignment of the septic and well was protective. It was suggested that an approval motion should be conditioned property owner should be testing their well at least annually.

**Motion:** to approve the variance requested for the proposed well location, with the condition that the owner provide a water test annually at the end of May; moved by Jason Silva; Second from Helen Grimm; unanimously in favor by roll call vote, 4-0.

The Chair asked if members would mind discussing the schedule for the next meeting, March 16. This date was also being booked by the Select Board who were working on the Warrant. The Board was comfortable that they could start their meeting at 4 PM and end promptly at 5 PM for the Select Board. There was also discussion about the date when the Board could hold the Public Hearing on the regulations. It was decided to advertise for the Public Hearing to be held on April 6.

**Motion:** Jason Silva moved to hear the DPW report out of order; Second from Helen Grimm; unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Tim Rose had joined the meeting 15 minutes previously. Vote was 5-0.

**DPW Directors Report:**

Jarod Cabral reported on the annual solid waste tonnage which shows an increase from the previous year. As of Feb1 it appears that this fiscal year total will exceed the budgeted amount.

Mr. Cabral stated that user fees will not increase this year, but will need to next year, as the contracted rates are increasing. He mentioned a possible regulatory shift to address commercial haulers and a bundled permit fee. He will be exploring the regulations of surrounding towns that address this.

He commented that the large increase in tonnage is most likely due to the population increase from the Pandemic. The chair asked about the market for recycling. Mr. Cabral stated that the cardboard market was very soft, making it almost not worth separating the cardboard from the waste stream. He referenced revisiting the PAYT process from 2015 and that he was looking for the basis of the BoH decision. He was interested in exploring what other communities are doing and suggested that we might need to take another look at PAYT. Tim Rose suggested that it didn't make sense at that time (in 2015)

as there were so many different types of users and it required too many staff to monitor what bags were going into the hopper. He also suggested that at the time it was a burden for the citizen to need to find the place to purchase the right bag. The Chair suggested that much had changed since 2015, and that this was a topic that would need to be revisited if the DPW director found it might be better for the Town.

Helen Grimm inquired about current recycling amounts, and that if those numbers were increasing as well. The director replied that both waste streams had a higher volume than usual since March, but that previously both had been on the decline. She asked about how the public managed without the swap shop and if that waste stream showed up at the transfer station, and how. He stated that there was a big increase in metal – and that it seemed like everyone decided to clean out their basements at once.

(New Alternate Candida Monteith joined the Board meeting at 5:15)

The Chair introduced and welcomed Candida to the Board.

**Discussion on Proposed regulations** - The Agent was asked to provide an update on the status of the proposed changes. The Board had left off with discussion about revisions to article 9 in section 6 on I/A. The Agent explained to the new members that the BoH had in the past been averse to use I/A systems, and had not allowed Nitrogen Credits through the use of I/A, however a loophole in regulations did allow I/A for new construction; the proposed amendment would close the loophole. It was pointed out that the regulations allow using nitrogen credit to create an ADU.

The Agent described the amendment for systems that required upgrade and are “upside down”- meaning those systems that do not meet the nitrogen loading standards, (such as a 6 BR dwelling on an acre of land), would be required to use I/A and pressure distribution, or , with one or the other.

The Agent suggested was that the Board start to consider an overall nutrient reduction across Town using I/A; but, added that the Board did not need to decide that night if the Board was not comfortable. The Chair stated that she believed that it was important to take care of areas of concern in Town, and that adding the I/A was something the Board could do here and now for the good of Truro.

Jason Silva said he would include that at this time.

Helen Grimm asked about composting toilets. The Agent referred to the I/A is a known quantity as it relates to the porcelain model, but the composter as “not for everyone”, as MA regulations require a title 5 plan and a means of disposing of greywater. There was discussion on graywater and blackwater and wastewater strength, and an overview of the types of wastewater management available to us including sewerage, where the wastewater is treated at a centralized plant. This affords the highest treatment; or , clustered systems to serve an area like a street or neighborhood with a shared treatment and leaching area.

The Agent described the process that the office employed to bring regulation amendments forward, as they use the regulations daily. Jason Silva expressed his point of view as an installer, and a Board member recognizing the effort it takes to propose the amendments.

There was a brief overview provided about the proposed amendments to the water well section of the regulations. Changes include adding requirements for testing, and language for the tests being taken within one year period. The goal is to increase water quality sampling. The regulation change attaches the sampling requirement to the issuance of other permits, such as building permits, septic installation /repair permits, rental permits, license renewals. The Chair asked about the rental properties, and if someone rents their house, if it will be required, and the answer was yes- it will be required. Jason Silva asked for clarification about building permits, and testing will be required for anything other than an express permit. Again the answer was yes.

The Chair re-stated goal of gathering more water quality information state and that things were evolving constantly and that these revisions may be ok for a few years, but we may need to make more changes.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**3 Dune Way**

There was a request for a continuance for 3 Dune Way to our next meeting in order to get the results of a water test.

**Motion:** Jason Silva moved to continue the agenda item of 3 Dune way until the March 16 meeting; Second from Brian Koll; the roll call vote was in favor 4-1-0, and the motion was approved. Tim Rose abstained.

**Report of the Chair:** Chair Tracey Rose described the update on the Standish/ Pilgrim Pond project recorded earlier in the day. The meeting was taped and is available on the health department web-site. The chair also requested a summary report from Barnstable County lab.

**Report of the Agent:** The agent provided an update on the status of vaccine availability and reported on the last clinic at Little Creek in Eastham; the majority of clinics on Cape for the next couple of weeks will be second shot clinics. There also an update on the plan to vaccinate the homebound population that will be completed by OCHS and the Truro EMS. The report ended with the statement that it was an interesting time to be in Public Health.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting- moved by Tim Rose; second by Brian Koll, the roll call vote was unanimously in favor 5-0, the meeting adjourned at 6:19.

Minutes prepared by Emily Beebe