

Truro Board of Health Minutes
January 19, 2021
4:30 PM-Remote Meeting

Members Present: Chair Tracey Rose, Vice-Chair Jason Silva, Member Tim Rose, Member Meredith Goff, Member Brian Kroll, Member Helen Grimm

Staff Present: Health Agent Emily Beebe

Chair Tracey Rose called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion on proposed regulations regarding: Upgrade triggers, septic inspections and reporting form, maintenance pumping, well testing requirements

The Agent explained the process to the two new Board Members regarding any change in local septic regulations, and the proposed addition of a local form for septic inspections that would accompany the State form completed by State licensed Septic inspectors. The Board members continued their discussion on the proposed form and the comments from Mr. Lucy. The Agent mentioned that the new local form will have a area for a floor plan sketch to be completed by the septic inspector as a way to address bedroom count discrepancies between the Assessor's card/records and the actual approved number of bedrooms. The "Needs Further Examination" area of the form will provide the opportunity to question the discrepancies and examine the process before a final determination is made. Ms. Goff asked the Agent if there were different interpretations of what constitutes a bedroom. The Chair informed her that the Board of Health Regulations clearly define a bedroom and if there were a conflict the Health Department would perform a walk through. There was continued discussion of bedroom count. Mr. Nagel brought up the topic of educating the buyer on the part of the real estate agent. The Chair asked if the form needed to be endorsed. The Agent felt that it should be brought back for public hearing for an opportunity for more comments when it will be integrated into the regulations. There was discussion by the Board Members and some members of the public about education regarding septic systems.

- There was discussion about a definition added to section VI, for Change of Use which would automatically trigger an upgrade.
- The Agent requested that the requirement for recording any grant of variance be removed, and that it was better as a condition.
- The upgrading section under Article 4 needed a complete format adjustment.
- The requirements for inspection will be amended
- I/A systems section may need to be revised to address the nitrogen credit question.
- The Chair asked the Board Members to review/evaluate the section pertaining to I/A Systems prior to the next meeting.

The Agent read an email sent as a comment during the meeting from Karen Ruymann, suggesting pamphlets as education materials to be placed at the Post Offices.

The Chair asked the Agent if there was new language for the well testing requirements. The Agent suggested this be continued to the next meeting, which was agreed to.

Review and Discussion- Open Meeting Law complaint filed against the Board of Health by K. Ruymann, dated December 29, 2020 – review and discussion of the complaint; votes may be taken. The Chair acknowledged that the minutes were not posted to the website in a timely manner. She sincerely apologized to the citizens of Truro and stated emphatically that there was no hidden agenda behind this. The Chair took complete responsibility for the violation, and assured Ms. Ruymann and the citizens of Truro that they were working to diligently correct the situation immediately. The Agent stated that though the minutes from March 17, 2020 to August were not posted on the website, they

had been approved by the Board; posted minutes on the website are up to September 15. The town was granted an extension from the Attorney General's office to appropriately respond and to correct the situation immediately. She read a response from the Town Counsel. The Chair stated for the record that this is the Board of Health's first complaint to the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Silva reiterated the importance of posting the meetings in a timely matter. Mr. Rose agreed. Ms. Goff announced that this meeting is her last as a Board of Health member and that she was honored to serve with the other members. She stated that the COVID-19 and the real estate boom certainly contributed to the lack of time to complete the minutes. Mr. Koll stated that in a very trying year, the Board has learned what works well and what doesn't work well and he felt that better communication by the Board to communicate with the town is a positive.

The Agent read the specific motion from Town Counsel for the Board to approve.

Motion: Mr. Silva motion to approve the specific motion- I hereby move that the Chair finalize the Board of Health's response to the Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Ms. Ruymann with Town Counsel consistent with the Board's discussion tonight and issue such response to Ms. Ruymann and the Division of Open Government in response to the complaint. Seconded: Mr. Koll. Vote: 5-0-0, the motion is approved.

Re-Organization of Board Officers

The Chair mentioned the new members Dr. Brian Koll and Helen Grimm, and suggested the Board might wait to discuss this until Ms. Grimm was sworn in.

Motion: Mr. Silva to continue to the first meeting in February the reorganizations of officers. Second: Mr. Rose. Vote: 4-0-0; the motion continue approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Ruymann read a prepared statement regarding her intent of the complaint filed against the Board of Health and about her concern over the Pond Village drinking water.

MINUTES: October 6; October 20; Motion: Mr. Silva to approve the minutes of October 20; Seconded: Mr. Rose; Vote: 4-0-0, motion carries.

Health Agent's Report:

- The Agent reported the number of local COVID cases have increased. Currently eight active cases.
- She is working with the Fire Chief regarding Mask Message Reinforcement. Masks should be worn once people are vaccinated.
- Vaccination program- still in Phase I, First-responders vax at the Orleans DPW facility.

The Chair asked Ms. Goff if the Outer Cape Health Services was providing a vaccination clinic. Ms. Goff believed that OCHS were working with Barnstable County Health Department.

Report of the Chair:

The Chair welcomed and thanked both new members, Dr. Brian Koll, and Helen Grimm. She thanked everyone for participating and attending the Board of Health meeting.

Motion: Mr. Rose to adjourn the meeting; seconded: Mr. Silva; Vote: 4-0-0, motion carries.

Submitted by Lynne Budnick LB

