

Manchester Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 3, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

Members present:

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Tonya Colpitts

Members absent:

Martin Hahn

Also present:

Town Moderator Alan Wilson

**Town Meeting Public Health Protocols**

Moderator Alan Wilson came before the Board to present his Covid protocols for the June Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Wilson noted that he had revised the protocols, based on the State's latest guidance and the Town having no current active cases. He noted that he had reviewed the plan with prior Board member Dr. Bradley and current Board member Dr. Hahn. He stated that he would be recommending but not requiring wearing of masks.

Mr. Colarusso said that he had reviewed the plan and found it well written and offered his support.

Nurse Crehan, noting the Town's current status on Covid cases and State Covid guidance, while noting the plan is no longer required, also offered her support.

Ms. Filias shared that a vote of the Board of Health is no longer required, as State Covid Guidance has all been rescinded. She noted that plan was cautious but offered her support for Mr. Wilson's plan.

Mr. Wilson asked that the Board vote on the plan regardless.

Ms. Filias made a motion for the Board of Health to vote to support the Moderator's Covid plan for the Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote on the motion:

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Wilson left the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

## **Nurse Crehan, Covid Updates**

Nurse Crehan reported 241 total cases of Covid-19 to date, with zero active cases.

Nurse Crehan also provided an update on Governor Baker's Covid Orders & Guidance, noting that almost all of the existing orders and guidance documents had been rescinded. She noted that new orders were issued regarding masking, to require mask be worn on public transportation (in keeping with Federal requirements), in nursing homes and congregate living, as well as in K-12 schools thru the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

## **Mass D.P.H. Grant for Social Work and Nursing**

Members had questions regarding the paperwork related to a Department of Public Health grant awarded to the Towns of Hamilton, Wenham, Essex, and Manchester.

Questions brought included the following:

- How did the lead town of Hamilton include Manchester in the grant application without the Manchester Board of Health knowing and without the Manchester Board of Health voting to participate?
- Funding question – can the Manchester Board of Health say no to accepting the grant, and if so what is the time line to do so?
- Has the Manchester Essex School District/School Committee voted and agreed to the Social worker portion of this grant?
- Issue with multiple bosses is most difficult, managing the regional operation is difficult and may fail

Ms. Filias noted that while originally enthusiastic regarding the additional assistance to be provided, a review of the details has her understanding the difficulties identified regarding the chain of command and managerial issues. She asked that answers be provided for the questions that were posed.

## **Mass D.P.H. Approval of Regional Vaccination Group**

Members discussed State approval of a regional vaccine group, proposed by Senator Tarr, and lead by the town of Hamilton, to provide Covid vaccine for regional clinics. Both Nurse Crehan and Ms. Lufkin informed the Board that they had not participated in the application to the State but had been assigned by the Town Manager to represent the Manchester Board of Health moving forward. As such, they shared that they will be participating in a regional group meeting the following day.

## **Correspondence**

Members reviewed correspondence from resident Helen Bethell, regarding a request made to the Board of Selectmen to in future form a Water Resource Protection District Committee. Staff informed members that the Board of Selectmen have authority of the forming of committees and appointments to those committees. Mr. Colarusso made a motion for the Board of Health to support the future forming of a Water Resource Protection Committee. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote on the motion:

Dr. Colpitts, in favor  
Mr. Colarusso, in favor  
Ms. Cottler, in favor  
Ms. Filias, in favor

The motion was unanimously passed.

### **102 Bridge Street, Scott**

Ms. Filias, noting a business connection to the property, recused herself from the Board decision on this matter. She did note that because of her familiarity with the property, that the Board should want the proposed work to be moved along.

Ms. Lufkin noted that Board of Health Consultant Engineer Gerry McDonald was unavailable for this morning's meeting.

Dan Ottenheimer, representing the property owners, presented the Board with a 4-bedroom septic system design plan. He noted that the 4-bedroom system is a replacement system and that the tank placement is proposed for within 50 feet of the nearby wetlands.

There was discussion regarding the 4-bedroom system design and the size of the existing home on site.

Mr. Ottenheimer said that he had originally submitted a 6-bedroom design plan, but was directed (and Ms. Filias concurred) to design a four bedroom septic system in keeping with the existing disposal system permit on file.

Ms. Lufkin noted that the Assessor's have the property listed at 12 rooms total, which would require a six-bedroom septic system.

Both Mr. Ottenheimer and Ms. Filias shared they believed there were fewer rooms in the home.

Ms. Lufkin noted that they had been advised months prior to address that issue with the Town Assessor.

She further shared that as of this date, no one had reached out to the Assessor. Also, that the Assessor had not inspected the property since 2007 and the Assessor had been denied access to the property in 2019.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to approve the 4-bedroom septic system plan subject to the records being straightened out. Participating members discussed, but there was no second to Mr. Colarusso's motion.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to require that the applicant have the Assessor's records updated as soon as possible.

Mr. Ottenheimer noted that the Board of Health staff want the plan designed for 4 bedrooms.

Ms. Filias agreed, noting the issue on site with wetlands and groundwater.

Mr. Colarusso noted that consistency and continuity are important.

Ms. Filias said that a 6-bedroom plan was submitted and a 4-bedroom plan was requested, noting it was not right to have the applicant wait longer and suggested making a vote contingent.

Mr. Colarusso asked if the Board could make their vote contingent on Mr. McDonald's approval.

Mr. Ottenheimer said that he did not feel the Board would lose control of the room count by voting at this time.

Again, Mr. Colarusso noted his concern that no president be set and informed Mr. Ottenheimer that the Board would not be favorable to a future request for a deed restriction.

Mr. Ottenheimer acknowledged the Board would not accept a deed restriction in future.

Ms. Filias, noting groundwater conditions on site, requested the Board do what is best for the environment, advocating for passage of the four bedroom engineered plans.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to give septic system plan approval for 102 Bridge Street with the following conditions attached:

- 1.) Final review and approval of Board of Health Consultant Engineer Gerry McDonald
- 2.) Assessor's inspection and card update
- 3.) Clarification on number of rooms in home and septic system plan design for same
- 4.) Clarification on number of bedrooms in home and septic system plan design for same

With Ms. Filias having recused herself, the remaining members, by roll call vote on Mr. Colarusso's motion:

Ms. Cottler, in favor with all conditions noted

Dr. Colpitts, in favor with all conditions noted

Mr. Colarusso's motion passed, with 3 members in favor (Colarusso, Cottler, Colpitts) and Ms. Filias having recused herself.

### **Minutes for approval**

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021 as presented.

Ms. Filias seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote on the motion:

Ms. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso's motion was passed unanimously.

### **Meeting Schedule**

Members Filias and Colarusso will cohost the June 10, 2021 Zoom meeting to review the 2021 Mosquito Control Plan.

Members scheduled their upcoming meetings as follows:

June 10 @ 6p.m. Mosquito Control Review

July 15

August 12

Ms. Cottler stated she is unavailable for the June 10 meeting.

Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion.

Members, by roll call vote on the motion:

Ms. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant

