

Manchester Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Members present:

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Tonya Colpitts

Members absent:

Dr. Martin Hahn

At 8:30 a.m. Paula Filias called the meeting to order. She asked Nurse Crehan to provide her Covid update.

Covid Update:

Nurse Crehan provided the following update:

Total cumulative cases (3/1/20 – 5/11/22): 665

May cases to date (confirmed pcr): 19

Current active cases: 4

Hospitalizations: 1

Deaths: 0

Fully vaccinated age 5+: 83%

Criteria for masking not met:

<25 cases in a week

Essex County positivity rate: 6.6%

Hospitalizations in Essex County: 87% of beds filled (2.9% Covid ICU beds, 3.1% of all beds have Covid patient)

Covid clinic 4/19/22: 45 persons, clinic 5/2/22: 63 persons

Next clinics are 5/16/22, 6/6/22, 6/20/22

Clinics on 6/6 and 6/20 will be extended to accommodate Town employees

Nurse Crehan will continue to hold clinics if there is interest.

New supply of Covid test kits from State will be supplied to those attending the clinics, with up to 4 boxes (8 kits) per household.

Current symptoms of Covid are nasal congestion and runny nose.

There is no current surveillance on long Covid

Plans For Review

6 Smith's Point Road

Gerry McDonald reviewed septic system plans for 6 Smith's Point Road with the Board members.

He noted that while the site location is difficult, there are no variances being requested.

Peter Colarusso asked Mr. McDonald how he determines groundwater variations. Mr. McDonald explained the Title 5 process for determining groundwater, including soil modeling. Mr. McDonald recommended approval of the plan as presented. Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the septic design plan for 6 Smith's Point Road as presented by Hancock Engineering and dated 04/21/22. Mr. Colarusso seconded the motion to approve the plan. Members, by roll call vote, were unanimous to approve the motion to approve the plan:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Housing Updates

Ellen Lufkin updated the Board on the status of housing inspections on 115 School Street and 802 Summer Street, with work at both sites being monitored by Housing Inspector Bobbie Cody.

Water Resource Committee (Water Quality Task Force)

Board member Peter Colarusso provided the Board with an update on the work of this committee.

His updates included the following:

- WRC will be working together with the Manchester Essex Conservation Trust
- The committee is 1/3 of the way thru their 18-month tenure
- Test drilling is being conducted to identify water sources and new water sources
- Looking at source of PFA's and possible treatment at Lincoln Street well
- They are asking about policies and procedures, implementation of existing regulations and operational fines and procedures
- Expect that proposed new regulations will mimic Title 5
- Possible peer review for new water protection regulations requirements and applications
- No building permits until applicant proves there is no effect on water quality
- MECT document is a draft
- Reference to Chapter 10 made by MECT

When Mr. McDonald was asked if he could provide BOH review for any new water protection regulation, Mr. McDonald replied that he would have to review the information before answering.

Ms. Filias asked Mr. Colarusso who had asked the committee to look at the possibility of an environmental health permit related to water quality. Mr. Colarusso replied that Steve Gang had asked.

Town Administrator Greg Federspiel shared that the full committee has not yet recommended this new regulation yet. He asked that everyone make sure that the full WRC review the matter and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen first.

Ms. Filias asked who is coming asking for these regulations.

Mr. Colarusso replied that both the MECT, who wrote the proposed regulations, and the Water Quality Task Force, who are reviewing them.

Ms. Filias had questions for BOH Consultant Engineer Gerry McDonald as to how he protects water quality in terms of Title 5. Mr. McDonald replied that Title 5 regulations take care of that for septic systems.

Mr. Colarusso referenced a 15% coverage in a water recharge area. He asked if Mr. McDonald would be able to review this type of application if adopted in future.

Ms. Filias again asked why groups are asking for adoption of these new water protection regulations. Mr. Colarusso replied that the DPW does not review for water quality, just for permitting.

Board Chair/Vice Chair

Paula Filias, noting the need for assistance with Chairperson duties, made a motion to have Mr. Colarusso be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Health. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion to appoint Mr. Colarusso as Vice Chair of the Board of Health.

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Hybrid Meetings

Ellen Lufkin informed the Board that meetings moving forward would be hybrid, with members in Town Hall and applicants and other attendees meeting virtually.

Minutes

Members passed over review and approval of the meeting minutes.

At 9:33 a.m. Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Colarusso seconded the motion.

Members were unanimous to approve the motion to adjourn the meeting.

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant