

Manchester Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

In person members, room #7 Town Hall

Also, Virtual Meeting by Zoom

**Members present:**

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Dr. Martin Hahn, Dr. Tonya Colpitts

**Members absent:**

None

Paula Filias called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Ms. Filias asked Nurse Crehan to deliver her Covid report.

**Covid Report**

Nurse Crehan gave the current Covid case numbers for Manchester.

- Total cumulative cases 3/1/20-5/25/22: 712
- Total cumulative cases 1/1/22-5/25/22: 270
- Current active cases: 8
- Current hospitalizations: 2
- Deaths: 0

Nurse Crehan stated that she had good attendance at the Covid booster shot clinics, with the next clinic on June 6<sup>th</sup>. She said she was extending the clinics in June to allow for Town employees to participate and receive their booster shots. Also, that the State had provided the Boards of Health with Covid test kits, with each household allowed to have 4 free boxes (8

tests) each. She said that the State is currently recommending masking in crowded indoor locations and recommending residents get vaccinated.

Dr. Hahn recommended that people test if exposed (3-4 days after exposure) and use common sense indoors or at events. He noted that long Covid is a real thing and people should work to prevent long Covid from happening.

Joan Cottler reported that the U.S. Government is now offering residents 8 Covid test kits by mail delivery.

### **Alan Wilson, Town Moderator**

Town Moderator Alan Wilson came before the Board to present his Covid plans for the June Town meeting. He stated that at the April Town meeting, that half of the attendees were masked, and half were unmasked. He will provide two seating areas at the June meeting, one where a mask is required and one where a mask is not required. Ms. Filias stated that the protocols were important as the case numbers are on the rise. Dr. Hahn made a motion to accept the protocols as written by Mr. Wilson, with current Covid case information inserted (as provided today by Nurse Crehan). Peter Colarusso seconded the motion to accept the protocols. Members, by roll call vote, were unanimous to approve Dr. Hahn's motion:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

*Mr. Wilson left the meeting at 8:40 a.m.*

## **Water Quality Task Force Update**

Board of Health member Peter Colarusso provided the remaining Board of Health with the following updates from the Water Quality Task Force:

### **Mr. Colarusso reported Water Quality Task Force work on aquifers:**

Task force to update location of aquifers  
Preliminary findings are that there are more on both sides of 128  
May flow to Lincoln Street well  
PFA's are in roadway as well  
Work is in progress

Ms. Filias asked how the PFA's are found, and Mr. Colarusso replied by test wells. Ms. Filias said the biggest concern regarding PFA's is drinking water. Mr. Colarusso referenced Waltham's problem with water testing, which resulted in an order for a 2–3-year process. He stated that if there was a problem in Manchester at the well it would be in the millions of dollars. Dr. Hahn noted ultraviolet treatment is coming up soon and it will be more affordable and destroy PFA's.

### **Mr. Colarusso reported Water Quality Task Force current work on the MECT proposed regulation**

The original proposal excluded single family homes  
That proposal, being revised by the task force, now includes homes 7,500 square feet and over  
Regarding enforcement of same, Mr. Colarusso provided that the  
B.O.H. can choose under State regulation to not issue a permit.  
Further, he said there is a fine of \$300 proposed and further  
discussion is needed to decide if it can be \$300 plus remediation  
or \$300 per day instead. He said that fines need to be more of a  
deterrent. He referenced a past Town meeting vote, which strengthened the existing  
Title 5 law. Mr. Colarusso noted that the proposal being reviewed by the task force was  
written by an attorney and environmentalist who works for MECT.

Mr. Colarusso said that if projects were not in a recharge area, regulations would not be applicable. He said that people did not know about recharge areas in past.

**Mr. Colarusso reported Water Quality Task Force comments on the following:**

That towns surrounding here are in drought. He said that the State is encouraging water sharing between Towns but asked - why would Manchester share and leave itself short? He added that the Town may not have a choice in 1-2 years. He stated that Hamilton had capped their dump and was unable to get testing in area and he does not know why. He questioned if that could affect Gravelly Pond, our pond that they could potentially be polluting.

Mr. Colarusso asked Board of Health members if they had any issues related to the Water Quality Task Force work that they please bring them up to him soon.

In response to Mr. Colarusso's report from the Water Quality Task Force, members had the following comments:

Dr. Hahn clarified that the fine (in the original document) had read \$300 flat and a better fine structure would be needed. Ms. Filias stated that the B.O.H. had been enforcing Title 5 for years in keeping with that prior Town meeting vote related to same. Both Dr. Hahn and Ms. Filias asked if a dam at mid or edge of Gravelly Pond could be built for protection.

**Minutes**

Dr. Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> as presented, with the duplication he noted of the adjournment time having already been removed. Ms. Filias seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous on the motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022, and March 17, 2022.

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

### **Input regarding June Town Meeting**

Regarding the June 11<sup>th</sup> Town meeting, Dr. Hahn said that he had been contacted regarding the length of the meeting. He said that he had recommended that no additional articles be added to the meeting, extending the length of meeting.

At 9:00 a.m. Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion to adjourn the meeting:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant