

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD
Steven Kanner, MD
Patricia Miller

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse; Casey Mellin, Asst. Health Director; Abigail Butt, COA/HS Director; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Asst.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is on May 11, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Update on COVID-19 Cases:

Trish McGean said there has definitely been an uptick in positive cases throughout all the towns. So far Lincoln has had seven confirmed cases in the last seven days. Two of those have been under the age of 18. Many of those cases are in households with a positive case causing other positive cases. Lincoln schools have six kids in isolation and many of those are antigen tests, which means six plus the seven PCR tests. All the school pools were negative today, which is good news. Lincoln Sudbury had eleven positive cases for the month of April so far. Trish also said there is concern about school vacation next week. There were not large numbers from the private schools in Concord from their break in March but there were a lot of flu cases in Concord centered around the Peabody School, which also had a big COVID outbreak. The CDC updated their guidance as of March 29 to include the extra booster for anyone who received Pfizer or Moderna for anyone 50 or older or that are immunocompromised as long as it has been four months since their last booster. Trish said Lincoln is not providing any booster clinics but hopes that in the fall Lincoln in conjunction with other towns will be providing a big clinic for COVID boosters as well as flu shots.

Update on School Cases:

Patricia Miller said Becky McFall was unable to attend because of a School Committee meeting tonight but did send a spread sheet showing the school's COVID update for the last seven weeks. Dr. Kanner said for the weeks April 4 and April 11 the positive weekly at home tests went from zero to seven and the student daily average for absences is so low at 46 compared to 62 or 71 in prior weeks, which is certainly not an uptick. The wastewater average has been steadily going up for the last seven days and that has been a pretty good indicator of what is going to happen. Hospitalizations went from 314 down to 224 and then down to 218 and now is up to 236, which is every indicator that it will go higher. Trish said there are more absences because some kids are being pulled out of school early for spring break and she thinks that the kids will be tested before the break and again on Monday morning before they return to school. Abigail Butt said John Neri came by the COA and took four to six boxes of test kits and will be handing them out on Wednesday at the Transfer Station. Dr. Kanner said in his private practice he has seen 10 to 15 new cases in the last few weeks out of their 550 patients. Everyone has been vaccinated and boosted and some have had their lives disrupted with a few people receiving Paxlovid because of severe illness. His office will be having weekly booster clinics starting Friday for the next six to eight weeks. Dr. Kanner said COVID is exceedingly resilient, and the Board should consider a recommendation to wear masks inside public places again. This would not be another mask mandate but rather a recommendation and said it would also be sensible for parents to send their children back to school with a mask to protect them from further spread in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Mansfield said he has found that about 70% of people are still wearing masks at Donelan's and other stores in Concord. Steve Kanner made a motion to approve that the Board of Health recommend residents wear a mask when inside public places until at least early May due to an increase in the spread of the new BA-2 variant and to publish this recommendation on the Lincoln website. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye

Septic Review:

263 Old Concord Road: The petitioner is asking the Board to grant a variance as follows:

- (1) 310 CMR 15.240(7) which states “No driveway, parking or turning area or other impervious area shall be located above a soil absorption system, except where restrictions on the use of the land make it unavoidable. In this case the soil absorption system shall be vented to the atmosphere in accordance with 310 CMR 15.241”. The project is seeking a variance to allow for the soil absorption system to be located under the parking court. The system will be vented and constructed using schedule 80 PVC pipe.**

Bill Doyle, septic designer, and Mark Curley, Architect, represented the owners of 263 Old Concord Road. Mr. Doyle said the variance is to allow for the soil absorption system to be located under the parking court and the system will be vented and constructed using schedule 80 PVC pipe. Mr. Doyle said that Casey Mellin is okay with the design, and we are here just for the variance. He also said the septic is pretty straight forward except the trenches are under the parking court, which is not a driveway or roadway. Typically, when they go under a roadway, they go with a schedule 80 pipe, which basically means that the wall thickness of the pipe is twice as thick as a schedule 40. It is tough and almost like steel. The plan shows the reserve area outside and further away and out from under the parking court in case this does not pass, they have the reserve area as a backup. The intent of the project is that it is in the riverfront area and on the pristine peninsula out in the Sudbury River and working with the Conservation Commission, the idea was to keep the footprint of the project as small as possible. This project keeps it out of the riverfront area, which is a jurisdictional area of the Wetlands Protection Act, maintains the woods but also not encroaching on the neighbors.

The plan shows the location of the property and the location of the house which is about 6,000 sq. f.t and is a story and a half with a lot of the lower floor below grade. Right now, the leach system is out in the back in the riverfront area. The reserve area is where the property starts to drop off and there are really good soils in that area. They are trying to stay out of that slope to be able to keep all the natural vegetation that is in there. This is a pump system and is about 215 to 220 feet from the riverfront area. The reserve area does have trees that are all six inches or greater but there is also a lot of under story that is not shown on the plan. If the reserve area had to be used it would be visible to the neighbors and they would have to remove the trees. The soil in the area of the parking court is excellent, and it ends up with a five foot separation from groundwater and even more because this place is a kind of raised plateau. Mr. Doyle said the current system passed Title 5 and is a septic tank to overflow manholes, which are deep straight down cylinders with holes on the sides. They look like cesspools but not considered to be cesspools because there is a septic tank. The parking court will be asphalt with ventilation that will be hidden by landscaping. The Conservation Commission was happy to have the system out of the riverfront area. Mr. Curley said the project passed the Zoning Board of Appeals last week and Planning Board last night. Steve Kanner made a motion to approve the variance as discussed and shown on a plan. Patricia Miller second the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye

ARPA Funding for Mental Health Clinics:

Abigail Butt, Director of the COA/HS said the ARPA funding came through for the mental health clinics to help the Board of Health fund the clinics. She thought the economic and mental health impact on residents would have plateaued or gone down but the need is significant. Lincoln Woods has four clinics a month and with some youths the need is so intense they need to go to Eliot for what they are going through. The Emergency Assistance Fund is using more money than came in from the annual appeal. People are hurting financially and mentally. The clinics were running for about two years before the pandemic for adults only and served two younger people through the clinics but found it was not a convenient time to pull kids out of school. Eliot then did the adolescent clinic as a pilot last summer because the kids were really struggling. Abigail said giving out antigen test kits at the transfer station and through the COA has been successful and the Town still has a good supply of test kits. Dr. Kanner said that because a lot of the testing is done at home if you have 1600 positive cases in the State from PCR kits than you could double that to 3000 when you include the at home testing. Even though the number of hospitalizations and deaths are not as bad, the number of actual cases is really quite high.

Abigail said the mice at Bemis Hall are under control and thanked the Board for their help in getting the ball rolling to get the help that was needed.

Casey Mellin said everything is going smoothly. He started doing food inspections and there is plenty of septic work. Next meeting, he and Dan Pereira would like to come in to talk to the Board about Lincoln being included in a food inspection service, which will be paid for from a shared grant with seven other towns with no cost to the participating towns. Casey will be doing the inspections, but Lincoln has to sign on to have the information available. Casey said he does not think Lincoln will have much involvement since he covers a lot of it, but they need to have a certain number of towns sign on to get the grant.

Minutes:

Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2022 meeting as amended. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye; Patricia Miller-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

At 8:40 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye; Patricia Miller-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll

Approved: May 11, 2022