

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

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

Others Present: Susan Rask, Health Director; Abigail Butt, COA/HR Director, Brian Young, Fire Chief; Kirk Fitzpatrick, Septic Designer; Jessica Downing and David Sequeira, Park and Rec; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

28 Lexington Road Update:

Susan said she sent a letter today to the tenant ordering him to correct the violations that are his responsibility and sent a letter to the owners stating the violations that were discovered during the partial inspection. The letter did not give them a timeline since nothing can be done until the clutter is removed. The house is so cluttered you can barely move through it. It is pretty bad so the decision to declare it unfit for human habitation was correct. Brian was able to take out 3 garbage bags with rotted food from the mini-fridge but that did not even make a dent. There is a full size refrigerator with a freezer filled with rotted food. The tenant has 5 days to get it cleaned out. Abby said that Brian helped find an agency that deals with hoarders. The agency must come in to assess the situation. They would only take out the rotted food, which made the tenant more at ease. One of the tenant's friends said they would stand outside and if there was anything questionable they would call the tenant and ask for permission. This would only be for the food items. It does not include trash like empty boxes or plastic bottles. When Abby told the tenant that the shelf stable food would also need to go, he got very upset and angry with the Town, but he then accepted it. Susan does not see an immediate need to remove the shelf stable items, but a lot of the rotting food is intermingled in shopping bags and other trash. The company charges \$400 an hour plus cost for a waste disposal receptacle and protective gear and does not take Mass Health. The cost of the cleanup would come out of the insurance for the renter or homeowner. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of the tenant to cover the cost of cleanup. Brian said this just makes it safe for anyone needing to make repairs. He also wants to confirm some safety issues but could not access the basement because of all the trash. This is going to be a long process. Abby will keep everyone informed.

Septic Review:

10 Deerhaven Road: The petitioner is asking the Board to grant 1 local upgrade approval from Title 5 as follows:

310 CMR 15.405(1)(i) to allow for the use of sieve analysis of the soil because a percolation test could not be performed due to high groundwater.

Susan said she is happy to support the variance. It is a situation where they have high groundwater so you cannot perc in the A and B layers and need to perc in the C layer, but the groundwater was too high to dig a perc hole. They did a sieve analysis of the soil and determined it was a sandy loam and it is a variance under Title 5 to be allowed to use a sieve analysis in lieu of doing a test to determine the long-term acceptance rate for the soil. Kirk Fitzpatrick of Civil Solutions said the soil was too saturated for them to be able to run a percolation test in April and it never dried up this year. They took a soil sample and sent it to the lab, and they classify the soil, and it came back as a sandy loam, which is considered a class 2 soil under Title 5. The way a class 2 soil reads is you must use the worse perc rate available in that class. It is designed based on a perc rate of 30 minutes per inch. That area should have had soil about 10 or 15 minutes per inch. When using a sieve analysis, it is a little more conservative design, but there is a factor safety built in and should last longer. Mr. Kirkpatrick showed the plan and said they went outside the 100 foot buffer zone and received approval from the Conservation Comm. There will be a new 1500 gallon two compartment tank, which will flow into a 1000 gallon pump chamber. That will pump liquid up to the leaching area composed of the Presby Enviro Septic that is 42 feet long by 14.7 feet wide. The mound will not really be visible from the front but will look like a bump from behind. Patricia Miller made a

motion to approve the local upgrade from Title 5 as discussed at the meeting. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

Update on COVID-19 Cases and Flu and Booster Clinics:

Patricia received an e-mail from Trish McGean who could not attend tonight's meeting. She wrote that Lincoln has only had two new COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks, which is good news. The Lincoln Campus has not had any cases and only a handful on the Hanscom campus. Lincoln-Sudbury had 5 cases since school started and none since the second week of school. She is still waiting to hear about the Moderna booster being approved and said Lincoln will most likely offer a booster clinic sometime in the coming months. It is all quiet at Lincoln Commons. The flu clinic for seniors on Wednesday was a great success with 125 seniors attending. It was a drive through clinic at the Stone Church run by Walgreens, so it was easy to get in and out. There will be another flu clinic on Oct. 20 from 12:30 to 4:00 for teachers and Town staff and one on Oct. 23 in the new Lincoln gym area from 10:00 to 1:00 for all Lincoln residents ages 3 and up. People should sign up for a time slot. Trish said she was all set with volunteers thanks to Brian Young who has reached out to volunteers who had helped on previous clinics. Trish did not give any numbers on how many parents have signed up to have their students tested. The vaccination rate for teachers and staff at the school was high in the 95% to 100% range, but testing rate was not quite as high. Patricia will try to get more information from Trish. There is no information on the two recent cases as to whether they were vaccinated. Steve said it would be helpful to know how many people in Lincoln are vaccinated for COVID-19.

Discussion on Indoor Usage of Brooks Gym:

David Sequeira and Jessica Downing of Park and Rec. came to discuss use of the Brooks Gym. David said regarding the Tri-Town Basketball League, we have met with surrounding towns that are in the league. Wayland, Maynard and Weston participate and last year Sudbury did as well. They have had a few meetings to see what the interest is. Wayland, Maynard, and Weston have decent registration numbers and have had green lights as far as using gym space. Sudbury is out and will focus on in-town only. He and Jessica had talked to Becky McFall a few weeks ago for use of the school but their understanding right now is that it is limited to residents and any kind of indoor activity. We thought it would be best now to meet with the Board to see where we stand in the Town with gym space and where we might be for the future of the league. Lincoln pretty much runs the league from scheduling, refereeing and pretty much running everything. They would follow whatever the State and school tells them to do. They are trying to stay consistent with whatever the middle school sports are doing. If the players need to be masked along with the coaches and referees, they will do that. Also, there would be 1 or 2 parents at each game or how many people are allowed is up for discussion. Generally, grades 3 to 4, the parents are there but it tapers off for grades 5 to 6 and unfortunately grades 7 to 8 the parents do not really stay. It is a travel league so kids from other towns will be coming here, and it is not just Lincoln kids. The middle school basketball team right now is up in the air because of whether or not they can use the indoor space. Patricia said L-S is using the gym indoors for volleyball and everyone is masked when they play.

Becky has set up an elaborate testing program in Lincoln, but other towns may not have such testing. The Governor says masks for indoor sports and no masks for outdoor sports. David said any girls who sign up for grades 5, 6, 7 or 8 basketball will be playing in Sudbury because they do not have a team for Tri-Town. Each of the Tri-Town teams practice once a week and games are on Saturday. Steve said testing in Lincoln done on Tuesday after the games could determine if any kids have tested positive and he was not particularly worried about it in terms of the safety risk if everyone was masked and in a large gym. It is basically a decision for the parents as to whether they want their kids to participate. David also said there would be distance between kids on the benches. The members said as long as everyone is masked, the Brooks Gym could be used for indoor sports and keep track of testing after the games.

Discussion on Open Mic Events:

Elaine received a call from a resident asking whether the performer at an open mic event needed to be masked if at least 6 feet apart from a masked audience. Patricia said she felt anyone indoors should be masked. Abby said she was working to get some of the windows open in the large room upstairs at Bemis Hall for circulation and if the performer is up on stage she does not see a huge risk for the crowd if they are all masked. She said they have special masks just for singers. This would not work during cold winter days. Abby said you are not allowed to

ask someone whether they are vaccinated but sometimes they volunteer that information. She said the Board should set up some rules on how events should be used at Bemis, and she would pass this on to Barbara Low who is responsible for booking Bemis Hall. She can make sure everyone scheduling Bemis is aware of the rules. The consensus from the Board was that if a performer wants to remove their mask indoors they must be vaccinated and have received a negative COVID test 48 hours before the event. Otherwise, they need to be masked. Also, weather permitting the room should be well ventilated.

Minutes:

Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting as written. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steve Kanner-aye, Fred Mansfield-aye. The minutes from Oct. 6 were not ready to vote on.

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

Submitted by Elaine Carroll