

Town of Concord
Board of Health

Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2022

PRESENT: Jill Block, Chair MPH
Mark Haddad, Esq.
Dr. Deborah Greene
James Whelan, CRNA

Melanie Dineen, Public Health Director
Karen Byrne, Senior Administrative Assistant

OTHERS: Deborah Farnsworth, BOH Liaison to 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee;
Pamela Rockwell, Chair, 2229 MSOC; Bruce Thompson, deMaximis, Inc., Site
Cleanup Project Manager

1. OPEN MEETING

Chairman Jill Block opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. stating it was held on the Zoom Platform per the Town of Concord's Policy Directive and Guidelines as amended. She read a brief statement outlining meeting protocol and noted that the meeting was being recorded and available for later viewing on the Town's website. All Board votes will be taken via roll call starting with attendance. Board members present (Block, Greene, Haddad, Whelan).

2. DISCUSSION – 2229 Main Street “Site Overview and Scope of Remedy”¹

Bruce Thompson, Site Cleanup Project Manager met with the Board of Health to provide a summary and update to the Board of Health as it related to the “Site Overview and Scope of Remedy” that has been taking place over the past sever years and where things are and will be moving forward. Chairman of the 2229 Main Street Committee Pamela Rockwell who has been instrumental in this entire process and has a wealth of information relative to the entire process was on hand if the Board had questions for her specifically.

Following a lengthy presentation and discussion, Board Members were impressed at the continued commitment of the EPA to ensure that the cleanup be brought up to residential standards which are more stringent than the industrial. Considering the appalling conditions, the buildings were left in when Nuclear Metals, Inc, aka Starmet walked away, the Board expressed its gratitude for the commitment of the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee, deMaximus, and the EPA in keeping the government accountable for the cost of the cleanup, etc.

No further action was required. The Board thanked all involved and looked forward to future updates.

¹ Attachments of current site and scope of remedy provided by deMaximus

3. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Background – provided by Senior Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne

It is customary that the Board elect a new Chairperson in either April or May (before or after the meeting following the Annual Town Meeting). Historically, the Board of Health rotates the chairperson's role so that each member serves twice during their tenure, and it routinely coincides with a Board member fulfilling his/her first year on the Board.

As you are aware, in recent years, members have generously extended their respective role as Chair due to scheduling conflicts, inability to commit for a variety of reasons and/or delays in new members being appointed following the end of a term or resignation of a member. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, it made sense for our wonderful Dr. Greene to extend her tenure as Chair as the Town maneuvered through the many layers of what was involved in dealing with a never before situation relative to public health crisis/pandemic. But, even in previous years prior to that due to unforeseen circumstances members have extended their roles as Chairperson for two years in a row.

Although there were no official rules stating that each member of the Board should serve as Chairman during his/her term by doing so individual members have an opportunity to attend the BOS Monthly chair Breakfast Meetings which are geared towards information sharing with various Town Boards and Committees as well as a chance to perhaps glean another perspective as a member while running the meeting and/or being the lead on specific topics the Board may tackle through the year.

The Board of Health is a five-member Board appointed by the Town Manager with staggered three-year terms. Due to the broad scope of issues the Board of Health routinely deals with, membership has traditionally been made up of residents with specialized expertise including but not limited to medical, legal, nursing and engineering. Over the past few years that skillset has expanded to familiarity with public health policy and social services backgrounds. The goal has always been to have a diverse Board with interest to serve the Town by bringing expert knowledge in member's respective fields while achieving a well-balanced approach in public health issues of the day.

Action Needed

The Board could elect a new Chair who has not served to date and/or extend Ms. Block's Chairmanship if she was so inclined. Dr. Greene has already served 2 plus years as Chair so in fairness to our new member, it most likely would-be Mark Haddad or Jill Block. But obviously it is up to the Board.

The Board should also consider either at this meeting and/or the next, making a recommendation to the Town Manager's Office for a new member to replace Ray Considine whose tenure was up in May 2022.

DISCUSSION

Following a brief discussion, Mark Haddad stated that although it was his turn in the rotation, he felt that for continuity during this transition (employees and new Board members) if Ms. Block was willing to serve another term, he would support it.

Dr. Greene moved that Jill Block be voted in as Chairperson for another term. Mark Haddad seconded it. All VOTED in favor (Greene, Haddad, Whelan – motion carried 3-0, with Ms. Block abstaining).[did Jill not vote (in which case we should note it) or should we add her here and make it 4-0?]

At this time, Ms. Byrne also noted that Deborah Farnsworth (former Board member and long-time liaison for the Board of Health to the 2229 Main Street Committee was stepping down. Ms. Farnworth conveyed to the Health Division staff that the work that had been done thus far was superior as it related particularly to being able

to get the EPA to agree to set the cleanup standards to residential limits. She was confident in deMaximus and advised the PHD Dineen that the most important thing was to not hinder the good work that had occurred and to continue to support forward movement on the project. After a brief discussion, Jim Whelan said he would be willing to serve as the Board' liaison. Jill Block moved that Jim Whelan take on the role as Liaison for the Board of Health to the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee. Dr. Greene seconded it. All VOTED in favor. (Block, Greene, Haddad – in favor; motion carried 3-0, with Mr. Whelan abstaining). [same question here, did Jim not vote (in which case we should note it) or should we add him here and make it 4-0?]

Chair Jill Block will reach out to the Town Manager's Office and some of the other candidates that submitted volunteer cards to fill the vacancy left by Ray Considine.

4. BOARD CALENDAR AND MINUTES

The minutes of the March 26, 2022, meeting was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Greene moved to APPROVE the minutes as submitted. Jill Block seconded. All VOTED in favor. (Block, Greene, Haddad – yes; motion carried 3-0; Mr. Whelan was not on the Board at this time).

The minutes of the April 26, 2022, meeting was reviewed and discussed. Jill Block moved to APPROVE as submitted. Dr. Greene seconded it. All VOTED in favor. (Block, Greene, Haddad – yes; motion carried 3-0; Mr. Whelan was not on the Board at this time).

The minutes of the May 17, 2022, meeting was reviewed and discussed. Jill Block moved to APPROVE as submitted. Dr. Greene seconded it. All VOTED in favor. (Block, Greene, Haddad – yes; motion carried 3-0; Mr. Whelan was not on the Board at this time).

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is June 21, 2022.

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chairman Jill Block and PHD Dineen thanked Dr. Greene for her fantastic presentation to the Select Board on the importance that cities and towns continue to take appropriate measures as it relates to mosquito control measures relative to spraying in the event of public health emergency of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Under new State Requirements Cities and Towns are now required to officially vote to "Opt-Out" of Mosquito Spraying. At the last meeting, it decided not to do so and to allow the State to take appropriate measures if the level rose to that level (human cases, etc.) Dr. Greene presented the Board's position to the Select Board.

Dr. Greene also mentioned that the BU School of Public Health would be providing a seminar on the best ways for Public Health entities and the Medical Profession to move forward in the best practices for Post-Covid Communication. She believes this will be key moving ahead.

No other reports.

6. STAFF REPORTS

PHD Dineen updated the Board on the ongoing inspections of staff with summer camps and pool inspections – it was in full swing and in her opinion, folks were ready to move forward from Covid-19 however, from a Public Health standpoint, those preventative measures must still be in place, and it is taking some time in getting folks to stay on point.

Ms. Dineen updated the Board on the algae bloom situation at White Pond and that a “Swim at Your Own Risk” advisory had been posted (for humans and pets). The levels are not such that the beach had to be completely closed.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Concord Board of Health
Signature Page
June 21, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen M. Byrne, Senior Administrative Assistant
Concord Board of Health

Jill Block, Chair, MPH

Mark Haddad, Esq.

Dr. Deborah Greene

James Whelan, CRNA