

Town of Concord
Board of Health

Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
7:00 p.m.

1. OPEN MEETING

Chairman Dr. Deborah Greene introduced herself and opened the meeting by informing the public that the meeting was being held on the Zoom platform in accordance with the Town's Policy Directive and Guidelines issued on April 1, 2020 as amended. She read a brief statement outlining meeting protocol and noted that the meeting was being recorded and would be available for later viewing on the Town's website. All Board votes will be taken via roll call, including an attendance roll call.

Roll Call for Meeting: Dr. Deborah Greene, Chairman – present
 Jill Block, present
 Mark Haddad, present
 Alma Healey, present
 Raymond Considine, present

 Susan G. Rask, Public Health Director, present
 Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant CBOH, present

Audience: Jeremy Romanul, Town Manager's Office (Zoom Host); Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board Liaison; Richard Harrington, PE, Williams Sparages; Jeffrey Rhuda, Project Manager, Symes, for owner (Def Subdivision, 146B Main Street – 110 Highland); Cynthia Rainey, School Committee; Erin Murphy, Regional Tobacco Control Collaborative

2. PUBLIC HEARING – DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION

The Board met with Richard Harrington, PE, Williams Sparages and Jeffrey Rhuda, Project Manager for the owner, Faye Erhardt Hayes, owner for the proposed Definitive Subdivision at 146B, 1442 Main Street & 110 Highland Street (PCLS: 2407, 2408, 2409 – a/k/a 1450 & 1440 Main Street0).

Background

A sixteen lot subdivision (lots 1-16) has already been approved as part of the development of the properties known as 1440 & 1450 Main Street; this proposed two lot Definitive Subdivision was created as a result of razing two existing dwellings on oversized ANR lots (A&D) to construct a local cul-de-sac street network for the previously approved 16lot subdivision. The new lots known as (A1 and D1) will consist of 2 single family homes (1 - with entrance from Highland Street; 2 - from Main Street). All required soil tests and onsite sewage disposal plans have been submitted and reviewed by the Health Department. Public Health Director Rask stated this was a fairly straightforward submittal and recommended approval with conditions:

1. Individual sewage disposal system shall be designed, permitted and constructed in accordance with Title 5 of the State Environmental Code, 310 CMR 15.000, *Standard Requirements for the Siting, Construction, Inspection, Upgrade and Expansion of Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems and for the Transport and Disposal of Septage* and Concord Board of Health Regulation, *Chapter 3.0 Wastewater Management*.
2. Town water must be provided on each lot.
3. Any wells (domestic or irrigation, heat pump use) shall be designed, permitted and constructed in accordance with Concord Board of Health Regulation, *Minimum Sanitation Standard for Private and Semi-public Water Supply*.
4. No underground fuel storage systems shall be installed without a variance granted by the Board of Health in accordance with Section 4 of the *Underground Storage Tank Bylaw*
5. Tree stumps and wood wastes generated by land-clearing operations shall not be buried on site. DEP's solid waste regulations 310 CMR 16.05(3)(d) and 310 CMR 19.013(1) (h) prohibit stump dumps on lots being developed for sale.

Following a brief discussion, Mark Haddad moved to APPROVE the proposed Definitive Subdivision Plan with conditions. Alma Healey seconded it. All VOTED in favor. Roll Call for the Vote (Block, Considine, Haddad, Healey, Greene – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

3. DISCUSSION – COVID-19

As businesses start reopening and guidelines have loosened up a bit, PHD Rask informed the Board that she and Health Department staff had spent a fair amount of time since the last meeting responding to complaints from patrons of businesses observing non-compliance with face-covering mandates. She noted that Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White has visited numerous restaurants, offices, and outdoor facilities reviewing and educating on the requirements. In a few instances, the State had to be called due to refusal to comply or repeated violations.

The Town is making an understandable effort to work with restaurants and other businesses to encourage patronage but Ms. Rask expressed her concerns about some of the outdoor venues/events being discussed. She felt that from a public health standpoint it was better to take a somewhat measured/cautious approach and that was what she was recommending to Town Leadership and business owners. Ms. Rask said that while statistics were encouraging and that she supported the overall rationale for promoting local businesses; she felt that moving to large outdoor events too quickly (with crowds from all over) could prove troublesome and negate all of the hard work that has been done thus far. Ms. Rask asked the Board for its support on that approach.

Board members agreed that if necessary, they were there to support the Public Health Director and staff to promote appropriate public health measures during the Covid-19 pandemic.

School Reopening

School Committee member Cynthia Rainey met with the Board to review the “Roadmap to Reopening Plan” for Concord Public Schools on behalf of Superintendent Laurie Hunter. This plan was developed in conjunction with State Guidelines and was the goal for the start of the school year:

- Concord Elementary Schools
 - Daily (in person classes ½ day)
 - Remote learning 12:30-3:30 (combination at home and Concord Rec option).
- Concord Middle Schools Hybrid Model (2 Groups)
 - Group 1 (A-K) Mon & Thursday
 - Group 2 (L-Z) Tues & Friday
 - Wednesday (cleaning day for school)
- Concord Carlisle High School Hybrid Model (2 Groups)
 - Group 1 (A-K) Mon & Thursday
 - Group 2 (L-Z) Tues & Friday
 - Wednesday (varies – could be some classes)

Ms. Rainey reviewed the policies that would be followed if a child or teacher tested Covid-19 positive or suspect including quarantine and school closure measures. She said that Dr. Hunter was taking a very conservative approach and she anticipated that if someone tested positive the school would likely be closed until the Health Department and Public Health Nurses determined the level of exposure.

Emerson Hospital has offered to help in the event of a suspected case to test and get results back within 24/48 hours and hopefully that will ease some concerns.

Board members thanked Ms. Rainey for joining the meeting.

Annual Town Meeting

PHD Rask reminded Board members that the Annual Town Meeting was scheduled for September 13th (weather permitting) 1:00 p.m. at the Doug White Playing Fields, Concord Carlisle High School. She briefly reviewed the Covid-19 Protocol that was developed in July¹ by the Town Moderator, the Select Board, the Board of Health and Police/Fire. The goal, she reiterated, was to provide to the extent possible, a participatory experience that Concord voters as they are used to, while still adhering to State mandates to protect the public health.

4. BOARD CALENDAR & MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting. Following a brief discussion, Ray Considine moved to APPROVE the minutes as submitted. Mark Haddad seconded it. All VOTED in favor. Roll Call for the Vote (Block, Considine, Haddad, Healey, Greene – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

The next regularly scheduled Board of Health is scheduled for September 15, 2020 and would likely be held on the Zoom Platform.

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Dr. Greene reminded Board members and the public to pay attention to the FDA Alerts regarding hand sanitizer² primarily manufactured in Mexico that have been contaminated with methanol or 1-

¹ Covid-19 Protocol for Concord Annual Town Meeting – July 13, 2020

² FDA Alert on Hand Sanitizer

propanol. She said that the products had made their way to Concord and that a patient had been treated for ingesting it.

Jill Block reminded everyone that Open Table and other “pop-up” food assistance programs had expanded efforts to assist residents because of “unmet food need” in Concord and surrounding communities. Ms. Block encouraged everyone to get the word out and support these programs during these trying times stating it was a definite public health issue. Unfortunately, some folks found it difficult to request assistance because of the stigma attached to needing food assistance. Ms. Block said it was challenging to address and was looking for innovative ways or suggestions to bring light to the issue. BOS Liaison Jane Hotchkiss requested that Ms. Block forward the pertinent information on the services available and she would advise the Select Board as well.

Ray Considine noted that Tobacco Free Massachusetts would be holding a virtual conference and could provide the meeting information to members.

6. TOBACCO CONTROL DISCUSSION

PHD Rask introduced Erin Murphy from the Regional Tobacco Control Collaborative (Concord, Bedford, Lexington and Wilmington) who will be conducting tobacco compliance inspections and enforcement moving forward in Concord. Ms. Murphy recently graduated from college with a degree in public health and was already working with the Mystic Valley Tobacco Control Program (Maureen Buzby) doing inspections. Ms. Murphy will be visiting all 14 tobacco retailers to introduce herself as the Health Department staff reestablishes the inspection/enforcement that had been delayed or suspended during the Covid-19 crisis.

Following a brief discussion, Alma Healey moved to appoint Ms. Murphy as a special agent to the Board of Health for the purpose of tobacco compliance inspections and enforcement. Mark Haddad seconded it. All VOTED in favor to APPROVE and to forward such to the Town Manager for his final approval. All VOTED in favor. Roll Call for the Vote (Block, Considine, Haddad, Healey, Greene – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

6. STAFF REPORTS

PHD Rask noted that one significant change to the State Covid-19 guidelines from the Governor was that police officers had been authorized to enforce both local and state mandates relative to social gatherings on private properties.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Roll Call to adjourn the meeting: Block, Healey, Haddad, Considine, Greene – YES. Motion carried 5-0.

Board of Health
Signature Page

Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen M. O’Keefe Byrne, Administrative Assistant
Concord Board of Health

Dr. Deborah Greene, Chair

Mark Haddad, Esq.

Jill Block

Alma Healey, RN

Raymond Considine

