

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**April 11, 2023**

**Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 PM**

**Quorum Check:** Confirmed

**Members Present:** Linda Cocalis (LC), Richard Volpe (RV), Dr. Louis Fazen (LF)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:**

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr. (KL) Health Agent

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

Teresa Paquin (TP) Resident, 11 Carey Road

Stephen Soper (SS) Contractor, 11 Carey Road

Joseph Pecore (JP) Contractor, 54 Allen Road

**1:00 PM** – Meeting called to order.

**1:00 PM – Review Minutes** – Minutes from the February 14, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) Meeting are reviewed. LC states that the minutes have already been updated to reflect members' participation in the open meeting via phone. All discuss details around remote meeting attendance.

**1:08 PM** – RV motions to accept the February 14, 2023 minutes as drafted; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

**1:10 PM – New Business – Board re-organization** – RV motions to reappoint Linda Cocalis as the Board of Health chair; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>. LF presents the idea of having a rotating chairperson for the BOH, as all members have different strengths. RV states that he is not comfortable taking on a BOH chair position due to existing time constraints. LC states that the main job of the chair is to run meetings, any tasks or projects of interest can be taken on by any member of the Board; she states she believes the more input, the better. RV states he is comfortable with keeping LC as chair as long as all Board members have input and can complete projects as equals. LC, LF, and RV discuss and agree that setting BOH goals and identifying projects of interest would be beneficial.

**1:28 PM – Vote to reappoint Linda Cocalis as Board of Health Chair:** AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

**1:30 PM – Hearing: well and septic variances for 11 Carey Road** – KL states that zoning regulations have changed and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) are now allowed in town, whether free standing or attached to an existing dwelling. KL states that existing town private well regulations do not reflect the potentiality of an ADU on a property, and only state that shared wells are not allowed; this language is reflective of well sharing between multiple lots,

not the sharing of a well between multiple free-standing structures on one lot. KL states that no issues were identified with well testing for the property, and no issues are foreseen with adding more dwelling space. LC, LF, and RV discuss that well regulations need to be updated to reflect new zoning bylaws.

**1:39 PM** – LC motions to accept the sharing of a single private well at 11 Carey Road between the main dwelling and proposed accessory dwelling unit; RV 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

**1:40 PM – New Business – DEP – Landfill leachate, well monitoring, and equipment discussion** – KL states he spoke with DEP regarding landfill groundwater monitoring; the town has been contracted with Adirondack Environmental Services to complete the monitoring, but required analysis has not been completed due to outdated contract terms. KL states that the Town Administrator determined that a new groundwater monitoring company must be contracted, which will likely result in a budget increase to cover updated costs. KL clarifies that no Board action is currently needed in this matter. KL states that the loader used at the landfill and recycling center is out of service, and that DPW is getting quotes for repair or replacement. KL states that the landfill is over budget for cover material for this fiscal year, and that long-term information continues to be gathered to determine how much cover material needs to be purchased from a vendor now that street sweepings are not being collected and utilized.

**2:11 PM – New Business – 54 Allen Road discussion** – KL states that an application was submitted to the Building Department for an addition to a 4-bedroom house; information about the septic system was requested for review in order for the Health Department to sign off on the addition; a completed Title 5 report was received on April 10, 2023; KL states that based on the completed report, the septic system was designed for a 6-bedroom dwelling and an additional bedroom should not pose an issue, and KL will notify the Building Dept. of such. JP states he does not understand why the review process took so long; RV states that the Health Dept. could not provide approval until the septic information was received and reviewed, and reiterates that the necessary information was not received until April 10. JP states he does not understand why he had to come in front of the BOH, as the project should not require a variance; KL clarifies that the matter is not in front of the Board for any type of hearing, nor was JP told a variance hearing was required, but as JP expanded his complaints outside of the Health Dept. and BOH to the Town Administrator and other town departments, a BOH discussion about the matter was necessary. All discuss what constitutes a bedroom under Title 5, and the need to review septic system information to maintain Title 5 compliance. JP states that the original 1997 septic design was submitted with the building permit application and restates his frustration; RV again reiterates the need for verification of current system functionality, and that the delay was due to the information not being provided in a timely manner. KL, LC, and RV agree that the matter is considered resolved now that the BOH has received and reviewed the necessary septic information.

**2:30 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond Road well pollution updates** – All state no updates.

**2:30 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive updates** – All state no updates.

**2:30 PM – Old Business – Landfill capacity updates** – KL states he will be meeting with DPW and EA Engineering regarding the landfill on April 20, 2023.

**2:31 PM – New Business – Appointment of Animal Inspector** – RV motions to reappoint Michelle Connors as Inspector of Animals for the Town of Sturbridge for a one-year term; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

**2:32 PM – New Business – Office and COVID updates** – All discuss the ongoing budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. LF inquires if it would be possible to keep a potential recycling center study on the agenda in order to figure it out prior to next year's budget preparations; LC, LF, RV discuss possible avenues for funding a study.

**3:00 PM** – RV leaves the meeting; LC and LF stay beyond the scheduled meeting timeframe to continue discussion. LF states he is impressed by the information learned through the landfill study and hopes that a recycling center study would provide similar results. KL, LC, and LF discuss possibilities for moving forward with a recycling center study.

**3:12 PM** – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; LF 2<sup>nd</sup>; AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Sherris  
Health Department Administrative Assistant