

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
November 15, 2021**

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 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

Tricia Valiton (TV) Health Inspector

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

Michael Pelletier (MP) MassDOT Environmental Services

Errica Devarenne (ED) and Keith Devarenne (MD) Deep Roots Distillery

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order

2:00 PM – New Business – Review October minutes – No issues are found with the October 18, 2021 and October 27, 2021 minutes.

2:05 PM – LF motions to approve the October 18, 2021 and October 27, 2021 minutes. RV 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:06 PM – New Business – COVID19 updates – KL states that there are currently 34 confirmed COVID19 cases in town; 13 of the cases are in children under the age of 12; 19 of the cases are in unvaccinated individuals; as of November 15, 2021, there are no COVID19 hospitalizations among residents. KL states that the data received from the state covers 14 days, and over the past 14 days, there have been 39 confirmed cases in town. KL states that there is an upcoming COVID19 vaccine clinic at the Senior Center to be run by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH); representatives from the Sturbridge Senior Center and Health Department will also be on site; there is also an upcoming flu clinic in the planning stages for early December.

2:18 PM – New Business – Office and business updates – KL states that a new hire for the Recycling Center has been identified, and the hiring process will be completed soon; the new hire will take the Saturday shift. TL and LS discuss Board of Health permit renewal status: all permit renewal applications have gone out and approximately one third have been returned; the Health Department staff has found multiple ways to streamline the renewal process.

2:22 PM – 48 Hillside Drive well variance – representatives are not present; the variance cannot move forward at this time.

2:23 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond well pollution updates – resident petitions have been submitted to the Board; LC states that the petitions were initiated to show the state that the

residents are having issues; the first issue was primarily with well water pollution, but there are also concerns around noise pollution and lake pollution.

2:30 PM – 126 Westwood Drive well variance – LC opens hearing for well variance request. MP states that the MassDOT Highway Salt Remediation Program is replacing a polluted well at 126 Westwood Drive; they are looking for a variance on the location requirements for a new well. MP states that the 126 Westwood Drive property has very limited access and the location of the sewer main is preventing trucks and machinery from accessing the property via the driveway, as it would be potentially damaging to the sewer line to have heavy equipment being driven over it repeatedly. The proposed well location would be 5 feet off the property line, and 5 feet off the road; KL confirms that this is the only possible location for equipment to access the property to dig the new well.

2:45 PM – RV motions to accept the 126 Westwood Drive well variance, with the new well to be located 5 feet off the property line and 5 feet off the road; LC 2nd. LF asks if there is a potential hazard from a well cover protruding from the ground in that area; KL states that the new well will be below grade. AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

2:47 PM – 559 Main Street, Unit 209 – grease diverter variance, Deep Roots Distillery – LC opens the hearing for grease trap variance. ED and MD states that they are building a distillery in the mill building, and local bylaws require them to offer food at the establishment; they are planning a small tasting menu and are seeking a variance for the 1,000-gallon grease diverter requirement. TV states that she has reviewed the menu, which is small and simple. ED and MD state that they have been in contact with the Department of Public Works (DPW), and that the DPW will monitor the current system and contact Deep Roots Distillery about any issues with disposal. KL states that a plumber will design an under-sink grease diverter, and that all other necessary town departments have been consulted.

2:54 PM – RV motions to approve the variance for an external grease diverter; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

2:56 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive update – KL states that the Health Department is working with the Conservation Department regarding the site; the water level device has been installed and the department is waiting on further reports. LC states that the purpose of the water level device was installed to keep the current beaver habitat while lowering the water level to preserve an existing septic system.

3:00 PM – LF states that he has a call in to his contact at the Southborough recycling center regarding potential ideas for center redesign. LC states that Sturbridge is currently figuring out the lifespan of the landfill and that it is unsure how those findings will affect the recycling center moving forward. LF states he is concerned more with potential safety issues at the center, especially around traffic and glass disposal. LF and KL discuss possible changes and feasibility. LF states that he would like it noted that the Board of Health should be aware that there are a number of issues to be concerned with around safety, that the recycling center currently feels like a safety hazard as it stands, and that he is asking the Board to request a consultation with an expert. KL states that it may be an option to reach out to the engineering company currently

contracted for the landfill study to see if they are capable of performing a recycling center safety study.

3:30 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sherris

Health Department Administrative Assistant