

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
October 27, 2021

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Ken Lacey (KL) Health Agent

Tricia Valiton (TV) Health Inspector

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

1:00 PM – Meeting called to order; KL states that the warrant for the special town meeting, to be held Thursday, October 28th, was closed on Friday and circulated for review. RV and LC discuss the warrant process and next steps. KL clarifies that the bulk of the warrant and special town meeting are in regards to a zoning bylaw change, not a review of a specific project.

1:04 PM – New Business – Review September minutes – LF proposes a change to the September 13, 2021 minutes regarding the use of “drastic,” proposing a change to “basic” in a discussion about ARPA funding and the recycling center.

1:06 PM – LC motions to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes with LF’s changes made. RV 2nd; AIF: LC, RV; LF abstains from vote.

1:07 PM – LC calls for review of September 24, 2021 minutes. LF, RV have no issues with the minutes as written. LC motions to approve September 24, 2021 minutes; RV 2nd; AIF: LC, RV; LF abstains from vote.

1:09 PM – New Business – Special Town Meeting – articles review and discussion – discussion opened

1:12 PM – Article 52 of the special town meeting warrant regarding expansion of the Grand Trunk Trail in Sturbridge. LC, RV, LF agree that it is appropriate for the Board of Health (BOH) to take a position of support in the matter, as it would provide access to healthy recreational activities for residents.

1:17 PM – RV motions that the BOH make a statement regarding support for Article 52; LC 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous. LF would like to add a statement regarding the positive health benefits of the trail to residents.

1:18 PM – Article 46, regarding the senior center design and construction project. RV states that the Board of Health would get involved with the process if the project moves forward. LC states that the center is planning on constructing a full kitchen. KL states that a full kitchen in the center would be beneficial to the senior community, as all current senior social services are

currently coordinated through the center. RV states that more meetings will be held regarding the project if the town votes to move forward, and there will be more opportunities for the board to make a statement if they see fit.

1:30 PM – Article 47 regarding the amendment of Chapter 300 – Zoning bylaw of the Town of Sturbridge by inserting a new article. LC raises concern regarding the proposed permitting the establishment of a recreational vehicle parking area. KL states that the parking area would be similar to a campground in that water and waste services must be set up and available to visitors, but the site would not be operating as a campground; the Health Department would be responsible for inspecting the site. LC questions the definition of “temporary residence,” and states concern that people will be living at the site as permanent residents; RV states that people there year-round will be living in the permanent housing to be built onsite. Discussion of permanent and temporary housing language included in the warrant. Discussion of the use of Breakneck Road for access to the site, traffic studies, and the need for clarification of the wording in the warrant in this regard. Discussion regarding the wording of the warrant potentially indicating that the Planning Board is the only board to oversee any approved project for the overlay zone; current wording does not delineate that other boards must be consulted in any project process; discussion around the wording not precluding the BOH from making requirements of a project, but not requiring BOH input where needed.

2:48 PM – RV motions that the Board of Health make a statement that they cannot support Article 47 of the special town meeting warrant as written. LC 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

3:02 PM – Old Business -- KL states that EA Engineering is completing a landfill survey and have discovered that the as-built is 60 to 80 feet off from the proposal, and they need to complete a hands-on survey of the site; approval is needed to use the BOH revolving account. RV motions that the surveying cost be paid from the BOH revolving fund; LC 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

3:06 PM – South Shore Drive update – KL states that an emergency permit was granted to install a water control device; the Conservation Commission granted a permit to breach a beaver dam to lower the water level; the device has been installed, and the water has currently been lowered by approximately 1 to 1.5 feet, and is being maintained below dam height.

3:11 PM -- LC motions to adjourn the meeting. RV 2nd; AIF. LC, LF, RV: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sherris

Health Department Administrative Assistant