

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
September 12, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Laura Sherris (LS), Health Department Administrative Assistant

Frank Postma (FP), EA Engineering

Frederick Roche (FR), EA Engineering

Peter Engle (PE), McClure Engineering

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:00 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the August 8, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) meeting are reviewed.

2:01 PM – LF motions to accept the August 8, 2023 minutes as drafted; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:01 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates – LS states that as discussed during the August 8, 2023 meeting, a letter regarding the intersection of New Boston Road and Route 20 was drafted and sent to MassDOT via standard mail and email; no response has been received as of yet.

2:02 PM – New Business – Frank Postma, EA Engineering – landfill and recycling center discussion – FP and FR introduce themselves to the Board and provide recent updates regarding the recycling center and landfill facilities; FP states that the results for the initial groundwater monitoring testing completed by EA Engineering were received the day prior to the meeting and that LS will be completing the testing data entry; EA will be drafting a memo to DEP regarding a filed complaint about the landfill to clarify circumstances surrounding the complaint and outline current status and improvements at the facility. FR states EA completed new surveying at the landfill to gather updated information for intermediate grading.

2:30 PM – Hearing – 68 Paradise Lane well variance – LC opens the hearing for the well variance request. PE states that the property currently has a shallow dug well; the project is a raze and rebuild; there are proximity issues with wetlands, and the project has passed Conservation; the site is located between multiple surface waters/wetland resources and no point on the property meets the local well offset regulation of 25 feet to surface water. The requested variance is to allow a 20-foot horizontal well offset to wetlands.

2:31 PM – LC closes the public hearing. RV motions to grant the well variance for 68 Paradise Lane, allowing for a 20-foot horizontal well offset to wetlands; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:33 PM – New Business – Frank Postma, EA Engineering – landfill and recycling center discussion continued – LC states that she believes the Recycling Center is doing a good job currently but could use some updates or changes, and inquires what could be done within the same footprint; LF agrees that it is worth considering options for improvements. FP states that a traffic study could potentially identify ways to reduce pedestrian traffic; more thorough compaction of materials could potentially open up more space within the existing footprint. RV suggests that an emphasis on efficiency and safety would likely be of interest to residents and potentially garner support for a future project. FP states that EA can provide a proposal for a Recycling Center survey or study.

3:14 PM – LF exits meeting; LC, RV, FP, and FR continue logistical discussion regarding proposals, budgeting, and potential next steps.

3:28 PM – New Business – Update re: migrant placement in Sturbridge – LC states that health screenings and rapid health assessments are being completed for newly-placed migrants in Sturbridge; discussions are continuing throughout the state regarding issues being faced in municipalities.

3:39 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC RV; unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant