



**TOWN OF CHARLTON**  
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## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

January 12, 2021

### Members Present:

Kathleen Walker, Chair

Jon Sanborn, Vice Chair

Matt Gagner, Member

- Chair, Kathleen Walker, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Vice Chair, Jon Sanborn, made a motion to accept minutes from December 22, 2020. Member Matt Gagner seconded and all-in favor.
- Next on the agenda was Berry Corner Road. No new information available. Matt made a motion to table it to next meeting. Jon second, all in favor.
- Cemetery and Gould Road updates was next on the agenda. The Board of Health was able to get \$5000.00 to support the proposal that was submitted by Gary Magnuson to help with this project. Kathleen summarized a letter to Exxon Mobile from the DEP asking them to revise their Public Involvement Plan (PIP) from the Mass Turnpike Service Area 6W to improve communication and provide opportunity to residents and municipal officials to give their feedback. There will be a revised draft PIP by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and a public meeting by Exxon/Mobile to present the draft PIP with comments by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Jon suggested that we keep this on the agenda so that we do not lose sight of it. Matt and Kathleen agreed.
- Jon gave an update about well testing being done for every house sale. He doesn't want this to be an extra cost for people trying to sell their homes. He would hope we can come up with something that is relatively inexpensive. He is just concerned since the town has so many contamination issues. Jon will contact Gary Magnuson and see if he has any suggestions. Matt doesn't think that \$120.00 to \$200.00 is a big burden and our hearts are in the right place in keeping people safe from water contamination.
- Stoneybrook wells were discussed. The PIP ball is initiated, and these residents will be included on this as well. Cemetery, Gould Road and surrounding neighborhoods should be on the agenda going forward. Brian Beck and Nancy Pecore were in attendance from these neighborhoods. Brian is concerned that they would have trouble trying to sell their properties with a clear conscience and wants to see this cleared up as soon as possible. He does not feel good about the situation. The Board understands this. Matt says that it is up to The Board to make the residents aware of it and try to resolve it. This will take a long time and involvement of the community will help to make it move faster. The Board is

doing what they can, and they ask the neighbors do their part. Brian says that the town should send out a communication to the neighbors as well. Kathleen assured that it will stay on the agenda. We will look into the meeting being livestreamed or made available to watch after the fact. Matt would like to propose that our Board does a mailing to the potentially effected residents in that neighborhood and go door to door to put a flyer out there about the PIP meeting so that nobody misses it and says they were not notified. Matt made an official motion to do the above mailing and flyer if necessary, Jon second and all-in favor. We will put the DEP letter on the BOH website as well.

- Covid Updates was next agenda. There has been a total of 579 cases reported to the Board of Health since March 2020. Vaccines were talked about on DPH call today. [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine) link tells everyone when they are able to get the vaccine. First responders are being vaccinated now. It was also stated that protective measures such as masks and social distancing are still necessary even after you get the vaccine as studies have not shown the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing the transmission of the virus.
- Matt wanted to mention that he was very disappointed with The School Committee's decision to override both the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health recommendation to have school remotely for 2 weeks after the holiday break as a reset. You should put public health and safety before education especially when it affects more than just the students. It affects the entire community. He appreciates both Kathleen Walker and Jen Cornouyer's efforts in this situation. Jon is disappointed that they didn't even bring it up for a vote. Kathleen does not think that asking for just two weeks being remote was a lot to ask. There are many teachers and students out because of the holiday surge. Kathleen mentioned the governments pool testing approach in schools. She is not sure if this is being considered in our schools or not. Matt would like more clarity about the program.
- The Board of Health budget is done by Jim Philbrook, Health Director, every year and the Board doesn't vote on it. She thinks it is good idea to know what is on it and formally approve it every year. All were in agreement that it should be voted on next year.
- Next meeting will be January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- Jon made motion to adjourn, Matt second, all in favor 6:35 p.m.