



# TOWN OF CHARLTON

37 MAIN STREET  
CHARLTON, MA. 01507  
508-248-2210

## BOARD OF HEALTH

February 9, 2021

### Members Present:

Kathleen Walker, Chair  
Jon Sanborn, Vice Chair  
Matt Gagner, Member

### Also Present:

Andrew Golas, Town Administrator  
Peter Boria, Water and Sewer Superintendent  
Gary Magnuson, CMG  
Residents from Cemetery and Gould Road

- Chair, Kathleen Walker, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- Vice Chair, Jon Sanborn, made a motion to accept minutes from January 26, 2021. Member Matt Gagner seconded and all-in favor.
- Chair asked that Cemetery/Gould Rd regarding Exxon and DEP be taken out of order since Andrew Golas has to leave to attend a BO S meeting at 6:30. There were no objections.
- Chair then gave a summary of what had transpired with this issue including the meeting with DEP and Exxon on Friday, February 5, 2021. This past fall a letter was sent by the BOH to residents on the two roads asking them to attend an upcoming meeting with the BOH and DEP to discuss their wells. That meeting was held on November 24 and it was agreed that DEP would reach out to Exxon/Mobile requesting an update on the contamination. The Board also agreed to hire Gary Magnuson from CMG to help out with interpreting the data. Subsequently DEP wrote to Exxon/Mobile on January 6, 2021 and initiated a PIP (Public Involvement Plan). Exxon/Mobile responded with a request to meet on 2/5/2021 to set up a public meeting in March. That meeting was attended by DEP and Exxon/Mobile as well as Gary Magnuson, Andrew Golas, Kathleen Walker and Peter Boria from Charlton. Discussion involved setting up the PIP meeting for March 15, 2021 to be followed up by one or two more meetings bringing forward the results of the Compound Specific Isotope Analysis (CSIA) by June of 2021. Kathleen Walker asked that she get her Board's approval of this direction.
- Andrew Golas, Peter Boria and Gary Magnuson were asked to elaborate on this meeting and they confirmed the summary. Mr. Magnuson explained the procedure for moving forward with a PIP and said the initial meeting was necessary to start it off but would not include any

substantive information about the CSIA. Questions were taken and answered by the residents and the Board agreed with the proposed direction. Exxon/Mobile will also be sending out information to the newspapers to inform residents of the March 15, 2021 date which will be by zoom and Andrew offered the Town's assistance with this.

- Berry Corner Road - There was discussion about notification to future owners of property located in compromised areas of Town who had not tied into water lines on their roads. Jon Sanborn made a motion to include the following information on Assessor's cards for specific locations - "Charlton has had well contamination throughout various areas of the town. Municipal water has been provided to some of these areas. Other areas may or may not have well contamination even in areas where the municipal water was supplied. Call the Board of Health to find out if there is potential contamination in this area." The motion passed unanimously. The Board continued to discuss this since it was pointed out that many people do not get to view the Assessor's card. This issue will continue to be on the agenda as more research is needed to ascertain how new residents can be informed that their well could be in jeopardy sometime in the future.
- Stoneybrook neighborhood letter to residents. Since it is possible that the contamination found in some homes could be traveling, it was agreed to send out a letter to those homes who might be impacted and invite them to the March 15, 2021 meeting. Gary Magnuson was asked to provide a circle to include the possible impacted areas.
- Well testing in general - Matt Gagner offered that before he joined this Board, he was not aware of the necessity of well testing. However, he now feels strongly that all wells should be tested and especially those in compromised areas of Town. Gary Magnuson was tasked with a request to provide a menu of well testing options including new construction as well as existing homes with ownership transfer. The Board is in agreement with this direction and this item will be included on the next agenda.
- A resident wanted to know if they would have to cap their well if they agreed to tie into the municipal water supply. Matt explained that the agreement with Exxon/Mobile would require that if you were being hooked up to municipal water then you would have to decommission and cap your well. Exxon/Mobile is trying to put a permanent solution to a contamination problem. This is between the homeowner and Exxon/Mobile, not the town. If you want to keep your well, then you would have to pay yourself to get hooked into the municipal line. The town would strongly recommend that you decommissioned your well, but they have not made anyone do it thus far.
- There were 32 more cases of Covid-19 in the last week. Total 733 since the beginning. Vaccine update. Kathleen has been volunteering at the clinic in Southbridge. Jim Philbrook has been instrumental in getting the town involved in being part of this clinic. There are 17 towns that have been getting numbers of slots for the vaccine. Andrea and Kim have been helping to get the seniors signed up for appointments. Over 75 nurses have volunteered to give the vaccine and Harrington has been interviewing them. We may have our own clinic in Charlton at some point and Andrea and Kim have been training on the Prep Mod system to help set up the administration part of a clinic. The next group will be 65 or older and also people with 2 or more comorbidities.
- No new updates on the schools at this time. Kathleen mentioned that there are new studies coming out about the safety of the schools.
- Next meeting will be February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
- Matt made motion to adjourn, Jon second, all in favor 7:30 p.m.