



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
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William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

BOARD OF HEALTH
May 25, 2021 – MINUTES

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch, Mike Tomkins, Wendy Brough, Allyson Malik

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- **Mike Tomkins of VLS&E on behalf of Susan Phillips – 135 Barnes Rd., Map 15 Parcel 3**
 - Variance Request:
 - 1) Leaching facility to leaching facility; 300' required – 211" proposed.

Mr. Tomkins explained that they will be getting rid of a cesspool and the placement is to not have to do a lot of damage to the yard by having to remove trees and installing a pump chamber which would increase the cost. Ms. Lancaster stated that it's better if you can avoid a pump and go with the gravity fed system which is preferable because if you have power outages, for instance, that can cause problems. Also because they are asking for variance the Board can condition a variance given the location (in the lagoon) you may want to ask to have an I/A system put in as a condition of approval.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to approve with the condition that they install an I/A system. All in favor. Mr. Tomkins will check with the homeowner and make sure that is something they want to do and will put in a new application and plan with the updated information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **February 23, 2021** - Approved
- **March 4, 2021** - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **Mask Requirement Recommendation for Library and other public buildings**

Ms. Lancaster stated that the Town Hall will be open to the public on June 1st. Given that the State restrictions will be lifted on May 29th we are working on what our local restrictions will be if any. Ms. Brough stated that due to the vulnerable population and families we serve and that we probably have unvaccinated employees and residents coming through the town hall we may want to have some guidelines for protection. Ms. Lancaster stated that playing it slightly more conservative for the near future is preferable to just ripping the masks off and crossing your fingers. Mr. Zinno felt that we should keep the mask mandate in place in

municipal buildings. Mr. Butterick agreed especially for the library where they have a lot of children's programs and no children under the age of 12 have been vaccinated.

Ms. Brough suggested that maybe we do need the Board to make a recommendation for mask wearing to the public in municipal buildings but was unsure if it should be required. Ms. Malik stated that she was there to support a mask mandate to continue in indoor spaces of town owned buildings. Ms. Lancaster added that for state education they are still requiring mask usage.

Mr. Butterick made a motion to require mask usage in the Town Hall, Library and the COA until August 1st. All in favor.

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **Southern Woodlands Septic Testing**

Mr. Albiston stated that in 2016 the planning board came up with a decision that said that required them to put in a system to ensure that the nitrogen loading from each system was no more than 90 milligrams per liter per year. The same language is in the covenants for the preserve of the woodlands that we're also recorded with the registry of deeds. As of now, we don't have any sort of policies in place saying how often that testing needs to be. There are certain properties in there, right now, that are not being tested at all, and then others that are being tested four times a year. We were thinking of making a policy for a year round residence to get tested twice a year, with one maintenance and seasonal houses to get tested once a year and have one maintenance test and that way we actually are ensuring the nitrogen loading is at 19 per liter.

Mr. Albiston also stated that this went through MV Commission and two years later they created the DCPC of the southern woodlands and one of the reasons for creating the DCPC was the protection of drinking water and adjacent surface waters. The MVC also in that finding said that the town had to develop a resource management plan for the district within one year and it doesn't seem like that even happened so we're kind of realizing that now and catching up so we can begin setting up our parameters for the testing.

Ms. Lancaster stated that we will proceed, draft the regulation and schedule a public hearing.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant