

**Board of Health Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2021**

The Hopedale Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance included: Chairperson Don Howes, Jason MacDonald, and Walter Swift. Also in attendance was Health Agent William Fisher. The meeting was on Zoom, televised on the local cable station and videotaped.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Howes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that all members were present.

**B. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER**

*1. Appointment of Chair*

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to appoint Donald Howes as Chairman. All voted in favor.

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

It was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Howes, to appoint Walter Swift as Vice Chairman. All voted in favor.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2021**

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2021, as amended. All voted in favor.

**D. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

It was reported that Board members did a walk-through at the glass bottle recycling center where bottles and cans will leave by railroad car.

Mr. Howes reported that there have been no emails or calls on the FY2022 budget numbers and, therefore, there has been no change to the original budget request submitted.

Mr. Howes referenced the proposed annual town meeting warrant article on §207-7 License Fees and Procedure wherein the sum of \$5 was listed as penalty charge late fee. Mr. Howes stated the fee should be changed to \$20. Board members agreed and Mr. Howes stated he would request a revision at the annual town meeting.

Mr. Howes reported he had a conversation with the E.L. Harvey and Sons representative regarding the possibility removing the collection of burnable bulk items as a condition of the contract as a cost savings to the town. The representative stated that the company spends less than 4 hours per week and collects only a few hundred pounds of burnable bulk items and, therefore, there would be no substantial cost savings.

## **E. REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. MacDonald reported that Regional Restrooms was seen power washing port-a-potties at the Draper demolition site behind the town library and it appeared to be within 100 feet of the Mill River. Mr. Fisher was asked to investigate.

Mr. Swift noted that, with the recent changes in the COVID-19 restrictions, the basketball hoop restrictions could be lifted.

## **F. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. COVID-19 Information Update: Vaccination Clinics**

Mr. Fisher reported that he has volunteered at the Southern Worcester Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in Uxbridge and the number of appointments has declined. He reported that mobile vaccination clinics will start to take place and a mobile clinic has been scheduled at Hopedale Jr./Sr. High School on Monday, May 24, at 2:30-4:40 p.m. This clinic is available to students, parents, teachers and anyone else. He stated that individuals will still have to register on the Mass. sign-up site or the Uxbridge site.

Mr. Fisher reported that he participated in a meeting with the school department regarding sports and graduation to review the COVID-19 state guidance.

Mr. Fisher reported that the annual town meeting setup will be the same as last year.

Mr. Fisher reported that, effective May 29, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask or social distance except for public transportation. He reported that on June 15 the state will lift the state of emergency.

### **2. Hopedale Landfill Update**

Mr. Fisher stated that the Hopedale landfill at 228 South Main Street, managed by Cover Technologies, has run into more items buried years ago. The DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), which monitors the project site, has allowed 400,000 cubic yards of material and has required the building

of a containment wall because there was a problem with water draining into the Milford wetlands. Mr. Fisher noted that the Board of Health office regularly receives updates from the DEP.

Mr. Fisher reported that 7 area towns are planning to join the Blackstone Valley Partnership and receive a grant of \$277,000 from the CMRPC (Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission) for shared services. The area towns are Northbridge, Mendon, Blackstone, Millville, Upton, Uxbridge, Douglas and Hopedale. After the signing of an Inter-Municipal Agreement, a board will be formed and responsible for hiring individuals whose work will be shared among the towns in the partnership. Positions will include a regional health coordinator, which will be an inspector for restaurants, soils, etc., and a community health coordinator, which will plan community health events. There will be one partnership board member and one alternate from each town to attend quarterly meetings.

After discussion, Mr. Fisher will be the partnership board member and Mr. MacDonald will be the alternate.

**3. Animal Control Officer Reporting – No discussion was held.**

**4. Other – None.**

**G. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 334A South Main Street and the Variance Requested**

Board members reviewed the disposal works/septic plan and request for a variance for 334A South Main Street.

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the disposal works/septic plan for 334A South Main Street and grant a Tittle V local upgrade under Section 310 CMR 15.405 (1)(b) to allow a reduction of the setback of the (sas) soil absorption system to the foundation wall from 20 feet to 10.4 feet due to limited yard area. A 40-mil impervious barrier is proposed to compensate for this variance and no additional flow above the existing 3 bedrooms and a garbage disposal is prohibited by the design. No other Hopedale or State regulation was overlooked. All voted in favor.

**2. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 11 Warfield Street**

Board members reviewed the disposal works/septic plan for 11 Warfield Street.

It was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Swift, to approve the disposal works/septic plan for 11 Warfield Street. All voted in favor.

**3. Other – None.**

**H. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Email to Town Administrator re: Warrant Article Request for 2021 Annual Town Meeting
2. Accounting Dept. Expenditure Ledger: 4/30/21
3. Simple Recycling Textile Per Pound Report: 3/31/2021
4. Email from D. Rosse re: Pay-as-You-Go Trash Collection
5. Email from Town Administrator re: Warrant Article for 2021 Annual Town Meeting

**I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Review of Annual Salmon VNA & Hospice Contract

**J. NEXT MEETING**

1. Thursday, June 17, 2021

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:00 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carol A. Villa*

Carol A. Villa  
Recording Secretary

**Approved: June 17, 2021**

**Board of Health  
May 20, 2021  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Documents List**

1. Draft Minutes: April 15, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 334A South Main Street
3. Request for Variance on Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 334A South Main Street
4. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 11 Warfield St.
5. Letter to Animal Control Officer: Dated May 6, 2021
6. Letter to Animal Control Officer: Dated June 27, 2019
7. Informational Items
  - a. Email to Town Administrator re: Warrant Article Request for 2021 Annual Town Meeting
  - b. Accounting Dept. Expenditure Ledger: 4/30/21
  - c. Simple Recycling Textile Per Pound Report: 3/31/2021
  - d. Email from D. Rosse re: Pay-as-You-Go Trash Collection
  - e. Email from Town Administrator re: Warrant Article for 2021 Annual Town Meeting
  - f. Copy of ATM Article 19 re: §207-7 -License and Fees submitted by the Board of Health