

**Board of Health Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022**

The Hopedale Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Draper Room, Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA. Those in attendance included: Chairperson Donald Howes, Walter Swift, and Jason MacDonald. The meeting was televised on the local cable station and videotaped.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Howes called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., noting that all members were present except Mr. MacDonald who was expected to arrive shortly.

Mr. MacDonald arrived at 6:08 p.m.

B. ACTION ITEMS

4. Animal Control

Uxbridge Police Chief Marc Montminy gave a presentation on the proposed Regional Animal Control Program for area towns. In his presentation, the Chief discussed the current situation with animal control officers, the issues related to the current situation, the solutions to the issues, the animal shelter, the proposed plan, the benefits of the plan, other towns expressing interest in the regionalization, and the budget for the regionalization plan.

The chief noted that there would be an inter-municipal agreement, the position of animal inspector had not been figured into the plan yet, regulations would be generated the same for each town within the regional group, and issuance of fines would be addressed by this regionalization.

It was noted that it was a three-year plan with the ability to opt out with a thirty-day notice. The goal is to have the regional group operational by July 1, 2022.

After the questions and answers, it was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to have Hopedale join the regional group. All voted in favor.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes: January 20, 2022

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2021. All voted in favor.

D. REPORT OF THE CHAIR – None.

E. REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. MacDonald reported that he would be meeting with Rebecca, the representative on the Stormwater mitigation at the recycle center. It was noted that if any other board members were planning to attend that meeting, then a workshop meeting agenda would need to be posted.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. E.L. Harvey Trash Contract Renewal

Mr. Howes reported that he has met with B.J. Harvey and Mike Sxyzczepan. Harvey is interested in doing a new 3- year contract. The rate will go up 3% from this current fiscal year and then 3% each year thereafter. Harvey is looking into providing 65-gallon totes for both trash and recycling at no cost to the town. E.L. Harvey will own the totes. Harvey will deliver one trash tote and one recycle tote to residents. If a resident wants an additional tote, then Harvey will charge a fee. Only the new totes can be used for collection. Old totes and recycle bins may not be used by residents. Harvey suggested having a 40-yard open top placed at the recycle center for residents to drop of the old and unusable totes and bins. If resident cannot fit all their trash bags into trash tote, then they will have to purchase a specific trash bag for the overflow, or wait until the following week to see if it will fit into the tote.

8. BOH is investigating trash bag vendors: the cost, turnaround/delivery time, and what the fee should be for the bags. In addition to town hall, BOH is investigating area merchants for the sale of the bags.

BOH is speak with Finance Committee regarding funds to cover the initial cost of the purchase of bags.

2. Hopedale Hazard Mitigation Plan Progress re: Recycle Center

Discussed under Reports of Board Members. Mr. Howes stated, that due to the problems and cost related to the mitigation plan, it might be wise to consider another location for the recycle center that is a more environmentally viable location.

3. Other -

Eric Meyer, a former resident of Hopedale, wanted to know if there would be an issue for him to install a tight tank on the property. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that there were no issues with an installation of a tight tank. It was noted that he would have to complete the necessary paperwork and submit the appropriate fee when the time came.

G. ACTION ITEMS - *continued*

1. COVID-19 Update and Masking Mandate

Health Agent Bill Fisher's recommendation noted that Governor Baker will be ending the state mask mandate on February 28. The COVID-19 Omicron virus had reached its peak the first part of January and has been on a decline ever since, and all COVID-19 indicators are following this trend as well. For people at risk or who have underlying conditions, masks are optional and encouraged. As of this writing, Mr. Fisher had not spoken to the Superintendent of Schools but is going to recommend that the school end the mask mandate for students and staff.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, that as of February 28, 2022, the mask mandate be terminated for town hall visitors and employees in all municipal buildings, including senior center and library. Wearing of masks to be a personal preference. There is no limit to the number of people in a town-owned vehicle. Plexiglass partitions should remain in place. Fully remote meetings are discretionary. The Board of Health Agent will still need to sign off on large gatherings town-wide. All voted in favor.

2. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 1 Charlesgate Road

It was noted that the property is originally listed as a 4 bedroom. A deed restriction is required because, under Title V 310 CMR 15.000, the property constraints (acreage) limit a septic system to a 3-bedroom maximum.

After review of the plan, it was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the disposal works/septic plan for 1 Charlesgate Road with the condition that no work on the plan may commence until the Board of Health Office has received a copy of the duly filed and approved Deed Restriction from the Registry of Deeds and, further, no Board of Health stamped approved plan will be released to the homeowner or installer until that

copy is on file with the Board of Health Office. In addition, the Board of Health Office will need notification from the Hopedale assessors' office that the deed restriction has been received and property records are appropriately changed from a 4 bedroom to a 3 bedroom. All voted in favor.

3. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 29 Mellen Street

After review of the plan, it was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the disposal works/septic plan for 29 Mellen Street. All voted in favor.

5. Other – None.

H. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Board of Health Annual Report
- b. Thank you from Hopedale Boy Scouts
- c. Mosquito Control Project Budget Notification
- d. Accounting Office Expenditure Ledgers: 1/21/22, 2/3/22
- e. Email re: Free COVID-19 Test Kits

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Review Annual Permit Fee Schedule
- 2. Update on Trash Contract Renewal

J. NEXT MEETING

- 1. Thursday, March 17, 2022

K. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 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: March 17, 2022

**Board of Health
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Documents List**

1. Regional Animal Control Plan PowerPoint
2. Draft Minutes: January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting
3. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 1 Charlesgate Road
3. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 29 Mellen Street
5. Update on COVID Conditions
5. Informational Items
 - a. Board of Health Annual Report
 - b. Thank you from Hopedale Boy Scouts
 - c. Mosquito Control Project Budget Notification
 - d. Accounting Office Expenditure Ledgers: 1/21/22, 2/3/22
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