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COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2022
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present:

Michael Pollastri, PhD, Chairman
Lynn Doxey, MPH, Vice Chair
Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Clerk

Recording Secretary:

Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

Field Engineer

Jason Federico

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN

6:30 P.M. **Meeting called to order.**

6:31 P.M. **56 LedgeWood Drive, Septic System Design Plan, I/A Technology, Presby Enviro-Septic Leaching, Morse Engineering.**

In attendance for this hearing: Gregory Morse, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 2/3/2022
- Septic System Design Plan, dated, 2/3/2022
- Form 11, dated 1/11/2022
- Percolation Test dated, 11/11/2022

Gregory Morse, Morse Engineering, reviewed the plans for 56 LedgeWood Drive with the Board. The property has a 4-bedroom dwelling on it which has failed a Title 5 inspection. Mr. Morse is proposing 4-bedroom septic system upgrade. The system will be in the back yard consisting of a 1500-gallon septic tank and Presby Enviro-Septic leaching system. The system will be gravity fed and complies with all the Title 5 Regulations. Mr. Morse is seeking one local upgrade approval which is the use of a sieve analysis instead of a perc test.

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the use of a Presby drip leaching system that allows a reduction in the separation to estimated high groundwater from required 4 feet to 2 feet and a 36.8% reduction in field size.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(i) to allow a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 56 LedgeWood Drive dated 2/3/2022.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

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6:35 P.M. Approve Minutes from January 25, 2022, Zoom Meeting

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve to approve the meeting minutes from 1/25/2022.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:36 P.M. Set Next Zoom Meeting Date Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:30 P.M.

6:40 P.M. 808 CJC HWY, Septic Design Plan, Morse Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Greg Morse, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 2/1/2022
- Septic System Design Plan, dated, 2/1/2022
- Form 11, dated 1/11/2022
- Percolation Test dated, 1/11/2022

Greg Morse, Morse Engineering, reviewed the plans for 808 CJC Highway with the Board. There is an existing building on the property with a septic system that has the capacity of 275 gpd. The applicant is proposing to take down the old building and construct a new building. The building plans have been approved by the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee. The new septic system will be 679 gpd in size to accommodate the new building which is 1,985 square feet of office space plus 4 tradesmen bays. The system will be located behind the building on the right-hand side of the lot with the septic tanks located between the building and RT 3A in the parking area. The system will consist of a 1,500-gallon septic tank, 1,000-gallon septic tank, and a 1,000-gallon pump chamber. Mr. Morse is requesting two local upgrades.

Comments:

Brian Buckley, 15 Brewster Road, Abutter, questioned: The plans have a check list that shows the depth to groundwater is not complaint with the law? Mr. Buckley informed the Board that this area experiences a significant amount of flooding. Will the system be a tight tank?

Mr. Morse explained: The system is not a tight tank system it is conventional system with a septic tank, pump chamber, and a leaching chamber system. The system is located 3 feet above the seasonal groundwater high water table. Four test pits were conducted at this site with a Board of Health witness during soli testing. This is not located in a flood zone.

Mr. Buckley, I understand it's not in a flood zone but every time there is a significant amount of precipitation it does have surface water that stays there for a week or so. Mr. Buckley asked with this type of system should there be concerns with wastewater leaking onto his land?

Mr. Morse responded: No, the existing site has no stormwater drainage on it whatsoever. This proposed site has all sorts of stormwater systems that have been designed into it. Including crushed stoned trenches alongside the parking lot, impervious driveway surface, and rain garden areas. The

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septic system is located behind the building, it is raised above the groundwater table, and there would be no concern with standing water.

Mr. Buckley asked even with the changes in the property, basically a significant amount of the property being covered by surface structures, this will not build up, raise the water table, and impact the system?

Mr. Morse stated that is correct. This project was peer reviewed by the Conservation Commission and the Town hired another engineer company to review the stormwater calculations on the site on the behalf of the Town and a stormwater permit was issued.

Mr. Buckley thanked Mr. Morse for explaining the project to him.

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(h) allow a reduction in the separation from the bottom of the SAS to estimated high groundwater from required 4 feet to 3 feet.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(i) to allow a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 808 Chief Justice Cushing Highway dated 2/1/22, revised 2/22/22.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:50 P.M. 317 North Main Street, Septic Design Plan, I/A Technology MicroFast 0.5 De-Nite Treatment Tank, Morse Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Greg Morse, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 2/16/2022
- Septic System Design Plan, dated 2/14/2022, revised, 2/22/2022 & 2/28/2022
- Form 11 dated, 1/18/2022
- Percolation Test dated, 1/18/2022

Greg Morse, Morse Engineering, reviewed the plans for 317 North Main Street with the Board. The property is owned by Kenneth Snow and has a failed cesspool in the back yard. The applicant is proposing to construct a new 3-bedroom septic system. Due to the proximity to Sanctuary Pond, which is a nitrogen sensitive area, Mr. Morse is proposing to install a MicroFAST De-Nite tank, a pump chamber, and a GEOFLOW leaching system. The system is a DEP complaint system and requires one local upgrade approval.

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MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the use of a MicroFast secondary treatment system and a Geoflow drip leaching system that allows the reduction in the separation to estimated high groundwater from required 4 feet to 2 feet and a reduction in field size from 100% to 48%.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(i) to allow the use of a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 317 North Main Street dated 2/14/22, revised 2/28/22.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

7:00 P.M. 10 Ocean Ledge Drive, Well Permit Extension Request

In attendance for this agenda item: Ryan Connelly from 792 Realty Trust

Mr. Connelly is looking to extend the well permit due to stormwater and building permit approval delay. Ms. Fahey let the Board know under the Cohasset Private Well Regulations an applicant can request an extension in writing and the permit would be extended for six months. Ms. Fahey showed the Board the letter from Mr. Connelly.

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to extend the well permit for 10 Ocean Ledge Drive until September 15, 2022.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

7:05 P.M. Face Covering Discussion

Ms. Fahey presented the following PowerPoint

Mass DPH Face Covering Advisory

- Fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors if:
 - You have a weakened immune system
 - You have increased risk due to age or underlying medical condition
 - Someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated
- Not fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors to prevent spreading to others
- Everyone should wear a mask indoors in transportation and medical settings

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CDC Masking Guidelines

- Based on county risk levels that accounts for case #s and hospitalizations and hospital capacity (previously based on community transmission)
 - Low and medium risk ® no recommendation for mask wearing
 - High risk ® recommendation for wearing masks indoor public settings
- Everyone should wear a mask indoors on public transportation or if they have tested positive or have symptoms

CDC Community Levels

- Community Levels determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area
 - Plymouth County ® LOW
 - Norfolk County ® LOW
- LOW Recommendations:
 - Stay up to date with vaccines
 - Get tested if you have symptoms

Vaccination Summary as of 2/22/22

AGE GROUP	POPULATION	AT LEAST ONE DOSE	FULLY VACCINATED	BOOSTED
5-11 Years	726	93%	81%	0%
12-15 Years	537	>95%	>95%	32%
16-19 Years	496	>95%	>95%	64%
20-29 Years	536	>95%	>95%	58%
30-49 Years	1,446	>95%	>95%	77%
50-64 Years	1,817	>95%	>95%	70%
65-74 Years	730	>95%	>95%	94%
75+ Years	696	>95%	85%	70%
Total	7,355	>95%	>95%	59%

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7:19 P.M. Public Health Director Report

Ms. Fahey had a meeting today to see if there is any way the town can help finance the connection of the Cook Estate to Town sewer through betterments rather than going to a bank. Town council will draft a memorandum to see how this can happen. The estimate cost is more than \$250,000.00.

Ms. Fahey has been sending the Board the following weekly reports:

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending January 28, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – Received updates on FEMA reimbursement, new EEC protocols and contact tracing. Disease surveillance going forward – in the future will stop counting cases; rather (1) monitor trends, (2) follow emergence of new variants, and (3) identify cases in vulnerable settings.
- Received a contract from DPH for an additional \$60,000 to be used for COVID expenses. This money will be used to pay for test kits and contact tracers. Found out this week that funds could not be used to pay for the testing site in Hingham because they request insurance cards. Hingham will try to break the contract and close the site. They were receiving complaints about the long turnaround time for PCR results. Hingham will be looking to the other 3 participating times to help cover costs to date.
- A vaccination clinic was held at Deer Hill school for 5-11 year old children on Saturday January 22, 2002 from 1- 3:00 pm. Only 13 children were vaccinated, however, 86% of Cohasset children in this age group have received at least one dose.
- Held a check in meeting with the four contact tracers. The Scituate nurse did not attend. The contact tracer assigned to Scituate expressed a strained relationship, although she will try to improve communication. The other three tracers are working well with their assigned communities.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits.
- Attended emergency management meetings regarding upcoming storm event.
- Board of Public Health meeting – Approved septic plans for 172 South Main Street. Reviewed plans and submitted comments to the engineer prior to the meeting.
- Cook Estate – Wrote an email to town counsel to confirm whether a town meeting vote is necessary to allow Cook Estate to connect to public sewer since they are not in a Sewer District. Town counsel confirmed that a town meeting vote is required according to the Town's Sewer Bylaw that does not allow a public health emergency exemption. He recommended that one be added in the future. In the meantime, I have drafted warrant articles to allow them to connect and a second to expand borrowing authority to allow them to borrow from Old Colony.
- Had local PHE grant meetings. First, Mary, Susan Sarni and I met with Mike Hugo from MAHB. He walked us through a "capacity assessment" and we determined that we would benefit from an epi, a public health worker and an inspector. We then had a meeting with MAPC and all our partners to discuss. There was some skepticism about the grant so Mike will meet separately with Hull and Scituate next week then we will reconvene next week.
- 226 CJC – Received another tenant complaint about mold in a rental unit. John Hallin and I will meet with the tenant and property manager next week.

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- 660 Jerusalem Road – John and I spoke with the property manager. Tenant has not paid rent in months and is being evicted. We requested a report with activities that have been completed to date. Two separate inspections by neutral 3rd parties identified the wet rug from slider being open as the cause of the mold.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending February 4, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – Addressed questions regarding DESE guidance, Omicron variants, use of test kits and guidelines for contact tracing. Submitted a signed contract for Supplemental \$60K grant for Covid support. Money is earmarked for purchased test kits that were distributed to regional partners and for contact tracer salaries.
- Posted the registration link for the second dose Covid clinic to be held at Deer Hill School on Sunday February 13, 2022, from 1-4:00 pm. Alerted school principal and superintendent to post as well.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits. Called Stop & Shop to have store manager contact corporate to pay the fees. Ava Cucina is the other final food establishment to renew. Will push them next week otherwise face penalty for operating without a valid food permit.
- Returned to Feng Shui for a follow-up inspection. When Brian Flynn and I inspected in December we told them to hire a company to perform a deep cleaning. They followed through and hired a company to come in and perform the requested cleaning. The kitchen was remarkably cleaner than I have ever witnessed. They also followed through and sealed openings to reduce exposure pathways for pests.
- Sewer Commission meeting – communicated to Sewer Commission and Cook Estate representatives that they will need Town Meeting approval to connect to sewer. I forwarded correspondence with town counsel and the draft warrant articles. Also recommended that they consider amending sewer bylaw to allow a town meeting exemption for public health emergencies for projects that are located outside the designated sewer districts. Currently the only exemption is affordable housing (390 CJC did not need town meeting approval).
- Cook Estate – Received an attorney letter for a records request.
- 790 CJC - Sent an approval letter to Rosano Davis who will perform remediation of piping beneath the building to prevent future sewerage overflows.
- Attended local PHE grant meeting. Attendants included Mike Hugo and Attorney Cheryl Sbarra from MAHB. Mike had spoken with Drew Scheele from Scituate regarding their needs. Drew had expressed a need for an attorney to deal with difficult housing cases that can take a lot of time and resources. Cheryl explained that a better person would be a housing code specialist with a social worker background. Susan from Hingham expressed that they would not need that type of resource. After the meeting, the four towns met briefly and expressed doubts about whether the grant will work. We will all meet again collectively next week.
- 226 CJC (Mathnasium Building with business below and apartment above) – John Hallin and I met with the tenant and the landlord and his entourage. We inspected the basement and each living area floor. John identified air filters that need to be changed on a regular basis, identified ceiling vents that need to be insulated in the attic and a floor vent that needs to be cleaned on a

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regular basis. In addition, he identified an outside gutter to be repaired based on evidence of water damage in an indoor pantry. The owner was handed a list of recommended repairs. Tenant and landlord were satisfied with outcome.

- Finalized septic reviews for 502 North Main Street and issued Disposal System Construction Permits.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending February 11, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – provided updates on latest vaccine information; addressed questions regarding DESE guidance; and availability of anti-virals like Remdesivir.
- Asked Mike Hugo if towns dropped out of the PHE grant would we still receive the Supplemental \$60K grant for Covid support. Money is earmarked for purchased test kits that were distributed to regional partners and for contact tracer salaries. He said that yes, they had surplus money and distributed the money for Covid use.
- Submitted updated Covid budget to DPH for test kits and contact tracers.
- Mary W., Mary G, and I met with Marcia Lewis who has been performing contact tracing for Cohasset. We reviewed the scaled down expectations that include only reaching out to families with children under 18 years old and people over 65 year old.
- Second dose Covid clinic to be held at Deer Hill School on Sunday February 13, 2022 from 1-4:00 pm.

NON-COVID-19

- Continued to approve and issue 2022 permits. On the food side, received fees from Stop & Shop and Ava Cucina to conclude permitting for the major food establishments in town. Will continue to permit residential, mobile food trucks, catering and any new establishments on an as needed basis during the year.
- Will begin e-permitting for animals/stables soon for the first time. Working on a template for an Animal/Stable Management Plan that will be required for each applicant. The template will be sent to each potential applicant along with application instructions. The new Animal Control Officer will then inspect the barns/animals in town on an annual basis.
- Attended a private well seminar. Topics included well installation, well development, well maintenance to keep wells operating efficiently using both chemical and mechanical methods.
- Attended local PHE grant meeting. Attendants included Mike Hugo from MAHB and Brian Luther from MAPC. Drew Scheele from Scituate decided to drop out and will not be part of the grant. The health director from Hull also expressed doubt about remaining in the group. The grant requires a minimum of three towns. Joan Taverna from Hull, Susan Sarni from Hingham and I are going to talk on Monday about perhaps a scaled down version of the grant that might let us ease into the process. Just begin with one position (and use MAPC as a part-time administrator) rather than trying to spend \$300K for three full-time positions. We need to make a final decision next week whether we are in or out of this grant.
- Processed invoices for a dead seal that washed up on Rocky Beach out of our animal budget and for additional CSCR samples that were collected last summer out of our laboratory budget. The additional CSCR samples collected from three locations in the Harbor (Bassings Beach, off a dock at the Sailing Club, near the mouth of the river) showed that it is acceptable

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to collect a Bassings Beach sample off of the Sailing Club dock. The results from all three locations were very similar and can be considered representative of the conditions at Bassings Beach. This means samples can be collected more efficiently without using a boat.

- Completed a draft narrative for the annual town report.
- Masks at the police/fire stations – the police department is 100% vaccinated. Police are not wearing masks in the secure interior of the building. On the fire side, there are four unvaccinated individuals. The fire chief would like to require those unvaccinated continue to wear mask. Will be meeting with union representatives before officially implementing.
- Reviewed as-built septic plan for 46 Church Street.
- Met with a representative from Blue Sky Entertainment that is hosting an event at the Cohasset Sports Complex. It is a one-day lacrosse tournament fund-raiser. They are planning to have a beer truck and food trucks. Provided her with instructions for applying for mobile food permits.
- Reviewed three active Planning Board applications.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending February 18, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – discussed the state’s Updated Mask Advisory. Update has narrowed the recommendation to mask indoors to people with compromised immune systems or if someone in a household has a compromised immune system; or someone not fully vaccinated. DPH also said that their decision to downgrade was based on decreased hospitalizations and wastewater data showing a steep downward trend in prevalence.
- Held a contact tracing check-in meeting with our four contact tracers and nurses from each regional town. All agreed that case counts are decreasing, but will keep tracers for the foreseeable future as they continue to relieve nursing staff.
- The Hingham covid testing site is shut down.

NON-COVID-19

- Met with Susan Sarni from Hingham and Joan Taverna from Hull to decide if we want to commit to the PHE grant. Everyone agreed to continue if DPH will accept a scaled back version where we hire one new position (a full-time epidemiologist) and continue with MAPC as the grant coordinator.
- Met with Mike Hugo from MAHB, MAPC, and Hingham and Hull. DPH was very happy and relieved to hear that we are continuing with the grant and are happy to allow us continue with a scaled-back version of the grant. In the short-term, they agreed that we could use additional left over money for training. We anticipate using the money for ServSafe training for restaurant workers in all towns and training for the registered sanitarian exam.
- Also participated in a state-wide PHE grant meeting. Learned that other groups are having difficulty finding new hires under the grant. DPH emphasized there is a lot of training money so it is possible to train someone that is otherwise a good candidate.
- 2022 Permits – sent an email to Permit Eyes with a list of edits that we need for several permit applications. Things like adding additional names for sign off, correcting fee amount, adding additional instructions, etc. Also asked for a meeting to walk through Disposal System

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Construction Permit which is the most complex. Need to understand how to incorporate sign offs for installers and engineer designers.

- Attended an Event Committee meeting and approved Earth Day activities. Safe Harbor will return with an updated plan.
- Participated in a De-clutter task force meeting to learn status of various at-risk senior residents around town. The Cohasset social worker that works for Elder Affairs is excellent and is making exceptional progress with many individuals that can be considered “success stories”.
- Reviewed Permit Eyes application for Keeping of Animals/Stable permit. Sent in comments and requested edits to Permit Eyes. Also, prepared an example Animal/Stable Management Plan that we will send out to stable owners in town when we ask them to apply online for a Keeping of Animals/Stable permit. We are holding off sending out letters to potential stable owners until we get the final edits incorporated in Permit Eyes.
- Ordered a pool test kit from South Shore Pool supply. Need new kit annually since test kit chemicals expire after a year. Once kit comes in will inspect Scituate Racquet pool (located on Cohasset property) and will be ready for summer pool season.
- Informed Morse Engineering that a submitted septic plan for 317 North Main Street needs additional secondary treatment since the site is located in a nitrogen sensitive zone. Also reviewed septic plan for 56 Ledgewood Drive.
- Visited new construction at 191 Atlantic Avenue and verified that the Board of Public Health-approved private well was installed in the approved location.
- Cook Estate – Met with Jane Reardon from Cook and Paula Linhares, Town Treasurer. Discussed borrowing options from the state revolving fund (SRF).

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending February 25, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – New DPH Margret Cooke spoke and thanked local public health. Updates were given regarding new therapeutics, both oral and infusion, to fight COVID. Dr. Katie Brown spoke about metrics for mask mandates. Her recommendations: case counts, MWRA wastewater for eastern Massachusetts, deaths, hospitalizations, local clusters, school cases, vaccination rates. As for the CDC transmission rates, she discouraged their use as a metric. She said that CDC is going to have to move away from transmission categories as they are not realistic, super conservative and very difficult to get out of the red.

NON-COVID-19

- Attended Part 1 of annual MHOA conference with updates from MassDEP. Topics covered included PFAS in drinking water, private well regulations, and an overview of new environmental laws. Part 2 will be held next Wednesday.
- Reviewed and submitted comments for septic design plans for 808 CJC and 317 North Main Street. Revised plans were submitted by the respective engineers for the meeting Tuesday night.
- Met with Mike Hugo from MAHB, MAPC, and Hingham and Hull. Mike Hugo will help with getting estimates from vendors for ServSafe training for food establishment employees. I forwarded him the one I received and he will contact two others and see if he can negotiate a deal for large scale training. Other regional groups may use the money for the same purpose.

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We received first installment of money - \$224K.2022 Permits – sent an email to Permit Eyes with a list of edits that we need for several permit applications. Things like adding additional names for sign off, correcting fee amount, adding additional instructions, etc. Also asked for a meeting to walk through Disposal System Construction Permit which is the most complex. Need to understand how to incorporate sign offs for installers and engineer designers. PERMIT EYES IS WORKING ON THIS

- 660 Jerusalem Road, Unit #5 – John Hallin and I sent a cosigned letter to tenant that summarizing all of the indoor air investigations that have been conducted to date that conclude source of moisture of mold in a closet was a wet rug from a slider left open during rain rather than a building code or sanitary code violation.
- Cook Estate – Meeting is set up for next week with town manager and town council to discuss how to assist Cook Estate with financing the project.

7:20 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin has been sending the Board the following reports:

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/28/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1040

Total number of Probable cases: 156

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 111

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 16.21% (765 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

Listened to a presentation from MEMA about FEMA reimbursement. FEMA funds cannot be used to cover expenses that can be covered by another source. Eligible costs are reimbursed at 100%.

EEC has updated their guidance for daycares and early education facilities. They trying to have their guidance align with DESE guidance. These sites will be given home test kits so they can participate in the test and stay program.

Maven Call:

DPH did a review of the different types of tests available and how to interpret the results.

Booster status: once you receive your booster dose you are considered fully boosted. The booster dose works quickly to increase immunity.

Childcare facilities have unique challenges with children under 5 years who can't wear a mask. If a confirmed case, they must isolate for 5 days. After 5 days either test again with an antigen test or continue to isolate for the full 10 days.

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1/22/22

Sponsored a Covid vaccination clinic for 5 – 11-year-olds at Deer Hill School. The clinic was run by East Coast Clinical Health. Unfortunately, only 11 children were vaccinated due to an issue with the appointment link. Plan to hold a second dose clinic on 2/13/22.

1/27/22

Participated in 2 Zoom calls with the Emergency management team planning for the upcoming blizzard. Vaccine is stored at Willcutt Commons. Both the refrigerator and freezer are connected to the generator.

1/27/22

Attended a Zoom meeting with the towns of Scituate, Hingham, Hull, and Cohasset, MAHB, DPH and MAPC to discuss and plan for the PHE grant. Mike Hugo, from MAHB, explained how DPH would like to see the money spent. He answered many questions and concerns from the various towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 2/4/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1066

Total number of Probable cases: 155

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 70

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 13.14% (609 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

DPH continues to stress the importance of prioritizing case investigations and contact tracing. The priority groups are K – 12 schools, EEC programs, long term care facilities, clusters, and adults over 65 years as they are at risk for severe disease even when vaccinated.

Omicron Variant: BA.2

Appears to be a sub lineage of the original Omicron however does have a different set of mutations. It seems to behave similarly. At this time, it is not causing surges but is being watched closely.

Listened to a presentation from Pamela Waksmonski – Director of the Clinical Lab Program at DPH. All labs must have a Mass. clinical lab license and a CLIA certificate to operate a lab in this State. They have had complaints about Covid test sites not having the proper certifications.

Maven Call:

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New guidance from the CDC pertaining to travel. The recommendation is to not travel for 10 days after being diagnosed with Covid. Quarantine period should be 10 days before you travel but can test on day 6 or later.

2/2/22

Participated in a Webinar sponsored by DESE and DPH. Dese presented their new program which will provide weekly at – home rapid antigen tests for students and staff. This will replace the Test and Stay program as well as contact tracing in the schools. Cohasset has opted into this program which should start next week. Protocols have been set up to deal with students or staff who test positive or are close contacts to someone with Covid.

2/3/22

MAPC meeting with the towns of Cohasset, Hingham, Hull, and Scituate, DPH, and MAHB. Further discussion about the PHE grant and how to implement it with the 4 towns.

2/3/22

Home visit made to a homebound elder to administer Vitamin B12.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 2/11/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1075

Total number of Probable cases: 155

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 48

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 10.49% (486 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

Pfizer has submitted an EUA for vaccinating the 6 month – 4-year-old with 2 doses of vaccine. Research has shown good results with the 6 month – 2-year-old, but not quite as effective with the 2 – 4-year-olds. More research is being done.

Dr. Catherine Brown talked about the new antiviral medications that are now on the market.

Paxlovid is the first treatment for COVID-19 that is in the form of a pill that is taken orally.

Paxlovid is available by prescription only and should be initiated as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of symptom onset. Supplies of Paxlovid are limited.

Remdesivir, another antiviral is available widely.

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Maven Call:

The workflows have been streamlined to make it easier to complete a case.

Review of antigen tests – they are positive when there is a high viral load and will be negative as the viral load goes down. PCRs are much more sensitive and may be positive for up to 90 days.

2/9/22

Listened to the DESE webinar. The school mask mandate has been lifted effective 2/28/22. Mask policies are now under the local authority. Masks still are required when on the bus and in the Nurse's Office. Students are required to wear a mask after either an isolation or quarantine period. Unvaccinated should be encouraged to wear a mask.

2/10/22

Attended a meeting with Scituate, Hingham, Hull, and Cohasset, MAPC and Mike Hugo from MAHB. Continued to work out the details of the PHE grant.

Preparing for the second dose clinic this Sunday at Deer Hill School for 5 – 11-year-olds. Clinic will go from 1:00 – 4:00 and will be run by East Coast Clinical Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 2/18/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1083

Total number of Probable cases: 155

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 29

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 6.67% (435 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **High.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

Maven Call:

I was off on Tuesday and did not listen to either call.

12/13/22

Assisted East Coast Clinical Health with a second dose Covid clinic for children 5 – 11 years old. Clinic was held at Deer Hill School.

2/16/22

DRAFT

Listened to a webinar sponsored by Mass DPH about using the MIIS system (Massachusetts Immunization Information System). There is a new procedure for uploading large scale clinics which we will be required to use for flu and covid clinics.

2/17/22

Attended a Zoom meeting with the Declutter Task Force. Departments represented were Police, Elder Affairs and Health. Discussed various complex situations in town. Some cases have made great progress.

2/17/22

Participated in the weekly call with MAPC, Health Departments from Hingham and Scituate, and Mike Hugo from MAHB to discuss the PHE grant. All 3 towns have agreed to hire an epidemiologist who will work with the 3 towns. MAPC will create the job description and start the search.

2/17/22

Attended the MAPHN monthly meeting via Zoom. Listened to a presentation from Belle Silverman from the Bi+ Resource Center. The Bisexual Resource Center works to connect the bi+ community and help its members thrive through resources, support, and celebration. Bi+ people are less likely to be out than their gay counterparts and are at a higher risk for mental health struggles and intimate partner violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 2/25/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1087

Total number of Probable cases: 155

Deaths: 4

The Town's total two-week caseload is: 17

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 3.64% (467 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **High.**

Plymouth – **Substantial.**

Calls/Meetings:

DPH call:

Maven Call:

I was off on Tuesday and did not listen to either call.

2/23/22

Confirmed order with Vaxserve for 450 doses of flu vaccine for the 2022/2023 flu clinics. 150 senior high dose, 300 regular quadrivalent vaccine.

2/24/22

Met with Nancy Lafauce, CEA Director, - discussed reopening Willcutt Commons to the public on 3/1/22.

2/24/22

Attended a meeting with Scituate, Hingham, Hull, MAPC and MAHB to continue work on PHE grant. The job description for the regional Epidemiologist is complete and will be posted to various sites. Grant money will also be used to offer Serve Safe to food handlers from the 3 towns and trainings for Health Department staff.

DRAFT

2/25/22

Town Hall closed due to weather.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Doxey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED