

APPROVED

COHASSET BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: Thursday July 7, 2022
TIME: 4:30 P.M.
PLACE: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present:

Michael Pollastri, PhD, Chairman
Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Clerk
Recording Secretary: Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN,

4:30 P.M. **Meeting called to order.**

4:31 P.M. **250 Forest Avenue, Septic Design Plan, Morse Engineering.**

In attendance for this hearing: Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- **Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 7/14/2022**
- **Septic System Design Plan, dated, 7/18/2022**
- **Form 11, Soil Suitability Assessment, dated 5/17/2022**
- **Form 12, Percolation Test dated, 5/17/2022**

Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering, reviewed the Septic System Design Plan with the Board. 250 Forest Avenue is 1.3 acres lot with a single family 5-bedroom home that was built in 1973. The septic system currently consists of a 1,500-gallon septic tank, a gravity line that goes under the driveway, and then to 2 leaching pits that have failed a Title 5 Inspection. Before upgrading the system, the contractor will pump and inspect the tank to make sure it is structurally sound to be reused. The plan proposes installing a Zabel filter, a new line to the d-box, and to a leaching field made from 5 rows of 9 infiltrator Arc36 chambers. The applicant is asking for one local upgrade to allow a reduction from 4 feet (REQ'D) to 3 feet (PROP) between groundwater and the bottom of the SAS to improve drainage. The Perc test results were good, and soil is a sandy loam.

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

SECONDED BY: **Ms. Kirkpatrick**

VOTE: **3-0 MOTION CARRIED**

MOTIONED BY: **Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Septic System Design Plan for 250 Forest Avenue dated 6/13/2022.**

SECONDED BY: **Ms. Kirkpatrick**

VOTE: **3-0 MOTION CARRIED**

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4:35 P.M. 31 Dolan Lane, Septic Design Plan, Morse Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 06/06/2022
- Septic System Design Plan, dated 03/07/2022, revised 6/23/2022
- Form 11, Soil Suitability Assessment, dated 08/16/2017
- Form 12, Percolation Test dated, 08/16/2017

Mr. Hassett reviewed the Septic Design Plan with the Board. 31 Dolan Lane is a new 4.3-acre lot. The proposed 5-bedroom dwelling will be set back on the property. The perc tests were good. The proposed system will consist of a new 1,500-gallon septic tank, flow by gravity to a d-box, and then to a leaching field made up of 6 rows of 7 infiltrator ARC36 leaching chambers.

Dr. Pollastri asked Mr. Hassett if the line go under the driveway? Mr. Hassett responded “yes, the pipe goes under the driveway”. The pipe will be a Schedule 80 which has thicker walls and is able to withstand higher PSI (pounds per square inch). Ms. Fahey asked if the proposed well would be installed first before the septic system to make sure all setbacks are met? Mr. Hassett wasn’t sure which is installed first it might depend on the availability of the contractor when the time comes. Mr. Hassett doesn’t think one has to go before the other either way they must be survey staked out in the field.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Septic Design Plan for 31 Dolan Lane dated 3/7/2022, revised 6/23/22.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

4:37 P.M. Approve Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 21, 2022.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

4:38 P.M. Public Health Director Report

Ms. Fahey updated the Board regarding the Town Pool. The Town Pool needs to have a pool permit each year from the BOPH before opening. Ms. Fahey inspected the pool on Tuesday July 5th and the water wasn’t meeting the water quality limits due to a leak that occurred on the weekend. When the pool was refilled, the chlorine was diluted out. Later in the day Ms. Fahey went back to the pool after it had been shocked and the chlorine numbers were too high. Ms. Fahey said she would be back Wednesday July 6th in morning to test water. Ms. Fahey wasn’t called but when John Hallin, Cohasset Building Inspector, went to the Town Pool to close out an outstanding building permit he informed Ms. Fahey there were about 70 people swimming in the pool. Ms. Fahey went to the pool and the chlorine was still too high. A lifeguard informed Ms. Fahey that 4 kids had vomited during a swim team practice. Ms. Fahey shut the pool down. Later in the day the water was tested again at South Shore Pool Supply and the chemical reading was acceptable to open the pool. Dr. Pollastri asked who allowed the pool to be opened with a high chlorine reading? Ms. Fahey informed the Board the certified pool operator for the Town Pool opened the pool before Ms. Fahey gave her approval.

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4:42 23 Fisher Road, Septic Design Plan, McSweeney Engineering

In attendance for this hearing:

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated, 6/22/2022
- Septic System Design Plan, dated, 6/3/2022, revised 7/6/2022
- Form 11, Soil Suitability Assessment, 5/4/2022
- Sieve Analysis, Briggs Engineering, dated May 24, 2022

Terry McSweeney reviewed the Septic System Design Plan for 23 Fisher Road with the Board. The existing system is in failure. The proposed plan will consist of a 1,500-gallon septic tank, gravity fed to the d-box, and then to a Geomat system. The applicant is requesting the following three variances:

1. 310 CMR 15.405(1(f)) SAS to drain which intercepts seasonal high groundwater
Proposed: 23 feet required: 50 feet
2. 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i) Perc testing to allow a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.
3. Town of Cohasset, Section 310 CMR 15.231(13), pressure distribution allows the use of gravity distribution in a pumped system instead of pressure distribution.

Dr. Pollastri asked where is the original septic system as it is not shown on the plan? Were there any variances approved before for the old system regarding the distance from the drain? Mr. McSweeney explained the soil samples collected for sieve analysis were taken from different areas on the property. Two test pits are shown and an additional 2 that were taken behind the house are not. The soil was identical in both areas but there was more room in the front of the house where the septic system is proposed.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve a local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(1(f)) to allow a setback reduction from the 50 feet to 23 feet from the SAS to a street drain that intercepts seasonal high groundwater.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the local upgrade request per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i) to allow a sieve analysis for the determination of an effluent loading rate in lieu of a percolation test.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Town of Cohasset, Section 310 CMR 15.23(13), pressure distribution allows the use of gravity distribution in a pumped system instead of pressure distribution.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Proposed Septic System Design Plan for 23 Fisher Road dated 6/3/22, revised 7/6/2022.

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SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence
VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

4:51 P.M. Future of Online/Hybrid format for Cohasset Board of Public Health meetings

Dr. Pollastri reviewed the current State Legislator guidelines for future of online/hybrid format for public meetings. Hybrid currently allows Boards to hold meetings by zoom this will be expiring July 15, 2022. As of July 15th, the Board will have to meet in person with at least 2 of 3 members present.

Dr. Pollastri asked if there were any more details from the Town Hall or other Boards of this getting changed. Ms. Fahey remarked: right now, it's up to the State Legislator and it has not been extended. Dr. Pollastri question: if the Town could adopt an ordinance to continue having online/hybrid meetings? Ms. Fahey said unfortunately, it is the State/Town meeting law. Dr Lawrence asked is there any deviance allowed? Ms. Fahey stated not as of now.

4:53 P.M Discuss Board Organization

Dr. Pollastri would like to continue the discussion of organization of the Board until the August 22nd meeting.

5:01 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin reported that Covid numbers are not going down like we had hoped. Camps are also winding down. Dr. Pollastri asked if the Town gets a report from the State with the number of Cohasset Covid cases. Ms. Goodwin stated "no, the Town does not get reports".

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

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending June 30, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – DPH reminded everyone of the Telehealth option for obtaining Paxlovid; they gave a presentation on shared kitchens (e.g., Made in MA in Cohasset); and an update on Monkeypox.

NON-COVID-19

- Cook Estate – the town attorney has made progress in terms of: (1) adding language to the draft easement prepared by the Cook attorney that specifies that the town will be taking possession of the sewer pipe post-installation and (2) preparing an agreement with Cook so that the connection fees can be paid over a 20-year period (similar to the agreement with the 380-400 CJC property). Despite the sewer commission's consulting engineer providing additional last-minute comments, the final design plan is ready to go out to bid to 5 contractors so that construction can take place at Deer Hill this summer while school is out of session.
- Cook Estate - Also, I reached out to MassDEP to see if there was money available to the residents to help off-set the construction costs. Maria Pinaud from MassDEP's Municipal

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Services Division Bureau of Water Resources responded with low interest loan options, however, there are no grants available.

- PHE Grant – We signed the contract for FY 2023. We tentatively plan to hire a community health worker, a contracted epidemiologist, and a communicable disease specialist (someone to support nursing staffs and cover MAVEN on a part-time basis).
- Meetings continued with the town social worker, building inspector, Elder Affairs and police this week to discuss difficult cases on Doane Street and 211 South Main Street (the “Castle”). For the castle, the building inspector performed an inspection and gave the property owner and his lawyer a long list of building violations that need to be corrected in 30 days. The social worker is trying to place the elderly resident and see if she can let the son become a paid care giver. Unfortunately, the hospital would not transfer the Doane Street resident to a psych unit and sent him home against the strong objections from the social worker. Our group agreed that the home itself is not the problem; although very dirty it would not be considered uninhabitable, it is the resident that is the problem. He will continue to be monitored.
- Reviewed septic plans for 250 Forest Avenue and 23 Fisher Road for the next BoPH meeting.
- Private Well Survey - have received 40 responses from our private well survey this summer. The two interns have been going out and finding the wells and recording the latitude and longitude to update our GIS system.
- Attended a Pre-Rental Housing Inspection webinar.
- Attended an Opioid Tool Kit Webinar.
- An engineer for 12 Lamberts Lane called to see if the BoPH would approve the use of a sieve analysis to determine a loading rate for a septic at this location even though the test pits revealed very poor soil quality. According to the MassDEP regs, sieve analysis is only supposed to be used when there is a high groundwater condition and not when soils are of poor quality – I also discussed it with Phil Spath and he agreed. I called the engineer back and told him the developer’s only option is try connect to sewer since the back yard is ledge.
- 790 CJC – Rosano Davis is moving ahead with fixing the piping beneath the building. There is a long history of septage flooding in the building (particularly Kids Shoe Market) when it rains due to sagging pipes. RD pulled a trench and plumbing permit and will begin the repairs this month after conducting a camera study this spring.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending July 8, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – No call this week.
- Seventeen boxes of test kits arrived this week and were distributed to various town buildings to be available for town residents.

NON-COVID-19

- Board of Public Health meeting on Thursday. Septic plans were approved for 250 Forest Avenue, 23 Fisher Road and 31 Dolan Lane.
 - Cohasset Town Pool – Tuesday July 5th conducted pool inspection at 10:00. Due to a water leak over the weekend half of the pool was refilled with potable water. The chemical tests showed that chlorine was non-detect (acceptable level is 1 – 3 ppm). The certified pool

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operator (CPO) shocked the pool and asked me to return in the afternoon. Chlorine was >10 ppm. I told him to call me Wednesday morning if the pool was chemically ready to complete the inspection for opening. John Hallin called me at 11:00 am on Wednesday to tell me that the swim team was in the pool. I went up immediately. The CPO told me that they had sampled the pool and it was in compliance and he was taking a sample to South Shore Pool Supply (SSPS) for confirmation. I told him that they were not supposed to open until I had compliant results. While he took the sample to SSPS I tested the pool and found the chlorine level in the large pool to be between 5-10 ppm. A lifeguard told me that 4 members of the swim team had thrown up. I called the CPO and he said the SSPC chlorine level was 6 ppm confirming my result. We evacuated the pool. Later in the afternoon I returned again to test the pool and confirmed that the pool had returned to balance. The Building Inspector, however, shut the pool down due to potential safety hazards associated with open building/electrical permits. The pool may open this weekend pending approval from building and maintaining satisfactory chlorine levels. The CPO is sending lab results to SSPC each morning for two weeks. Mass DPH is coming on Monday morning and will conduct an inspection as a standing operating procedure for any pool that has had an incident.

- PHE Grant – Our local group met with Brian (MAPC) and Susan (Hingham) and decided to move forward and hire a community health worker, a contracted epidemiologist and a communicable disease specialist (someone to support nursing staffs and cover MAVEN on a part-time basis).
- Opioid Meeting – we are supposed to be receiving money from the State to develop program(s) for combating opioid use. Mary and I met with Mike Lopes (CPD), Nicole Balaschi (Safe Harbor) and Stephanie Saunders (social worker). We discussed potentially putting money aside to use for stipends for therapy and purchasing Narcan.
- 21 Heritage Lane – Morse Engineering replaced a failed SAS that was only three years old. Phil Spath and I witnessed the removal of the old system and I inspected the installation of the new system. There was no definitive reason discovered for failure, but the new system was installed with more coarse material since fine T5 sand seemed to clog the old system. They also added a filter to the tank to mitigate future clogging.
- Went to the Red Lion Inn to conduct a pool inspection. Although they scheduled the inspection, they were not ready. The water was a murky green. I told them to have their third-party CPO get the pool ready and have him present for the actual inspection.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending July 15, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – DPH gave updates regarding state drought status (varying status of drought regionally, however, worsening across the state); fluoride (some towns experiencing interruptions due to supply chain); COVID data reporting (focusing more on trends like wastewater); Monkey pox (42 cases now in the state); and Paxlovid remains an effective treatment recommended by DPH even though some medications could increase risk of side effects.

NON-COVID-19

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- PHE Grant – We officially will hire Stephanie Saunders on August 1st as a regional social worker and Nicole Reilly as a Communicable Disease Clerk. Stephanie currently works in town under Elder Affairs in Cohasset but will transition over. She will be able to increase her hours under our grant and will primarily work on programs for people in the 18-60 age range. She will collaborate with the social worker in Hingham. Nicole will begin immediately and provide support for the Cohasset and Hingham nursing staffs by covering MAVEN on vacations and weekends as needed.
- Prepare and submit PHE Grant budgets for FY2022 to DPH.
 - Cohasset Town Pool – On Monday I met with two representatives from Mass DPH as well as staff and Trustees at the Cohasset Swim Center. DPH, as a standard operating procedure, must perform an inspection at a public pool after an incident like people getting sick. The inspection revealed that once again water quality was out of balance and the three pools were shut down. DPH was instructional and went over a list of findings. While most items can be addressed in the long term, pool chemistry has to be addressed immediately for the pool to reopen. The Center reached out to the company that installed their new sand filter system for professional assistance. The pool had three rounds of excellent chemistry results on Wednesday and I gave them permission to reopen in the afternoon. I stopped by each day this week to check the logs and make sure the results are in compliance.
- 20-30 Scituate Hill – I approved a septic upgrade that did not have any local upgrade requests. There are multiple existing leaching fields on Scituate Hill and a proposed new Tradesmen Office/Warehouse will install a new tank and tie into one of the existing fields with excess capacity.
- Brian Flynn and I did food inspections at Fresh Feast, The Blue Oar, Feng Shui and the Community Center. Feng Shui once again was ordered to increase their pest control and hire a contractor for a deep cleaning. We are scheduled for a follow-up inspection when I return from vacation.
- I worked with our new communications specialist Justin Shrair and revamped the Health Department page of the town website. We now have a regulations page with all of our health-related local and state regulations listed on one page.

Public Health Director Weekly Report Week Ending August 5, 2022

COVID-19:

- DPH – no DPH call this week.
- Monkey pox was declared a public health emergency this week. It was also announced today that due to a shortage of vaccine, Massachusetts sites will only be administering one dose rather than the recommended two doses until the supply catches up to demand.

NON-COVID-19

- PHE Grant – Introduced Stephanie Saunders to Brian Luther (MAPC) and Hingham (Susan Sarni and Betty Nee. Stephanie presented high level overview of programs that she will work on collectively with Hingham and hopefully Scituate in the future. The Scituate social worker is making progress with the Health Director moving towards re-joining our group which would give us the third town that we need to guarantee keeping our PHE grant. We also

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discussed hiring a contractor to help Hingham with perc tests and inspections of septic installations. Also submitted a signed contract to MAPC to keep them on as a contract manager for FY 2023. Spoke with Bethany Griles, our local DPH contact. We have not received our FY 2023 disbursement yet, but she said continue to use FY 2022 money and do not send back unused amount until we receive the FY 2023 funds.

- 218 Forest Avenue – received a revised site plan for proposed horse barn and paddocks (on agenda for August 22nd meeting). Homeowners purchased a third property since last coming before the Board of Public Health last year to avoid variance requests. Will meet with an abutting neighbor next week to discuss concerns.
- Cook Estate – Cook contracted with Rosano Davis to install the sewer pipe from Cook to Deer Hill pump station. RD will use dynamic drilling (horizontal drilling beneath the pavement) as much as possible to avoid trenching. Likely to be a combination of excavation and dynamic drilling based on the amount of ledge encountered. The project will begin imminently as soon as language is finalized in an easement agreement between Cook, Town of Cohasset and the abutting neighbor. Town Counsel also finalizing an agreement for Cook residents for paying back connection fee over time.
- 380-400 CJC – trench completed on Rt. 3A down to Tupelo Road pump station. Cohasset Plaza is tentatively projected to be connected to Sewer by September. Sewer Commission consultant is providing inspections and keeping me and John Hallin in the loop. He also let contractor know that they need to apply to Board of Public Health for permits to abandon existing septic system infrastructure. The owners contractors are being difficult in terms of performing tests on newly installed manholes. Sewer commission consultant is pushing back on them.
- Cohasset Town Pool – corresponded with Nick Anderson, Swim Center Trustee. At my request, all of the violations identified by the DPH inspections were put into a spreadsheet with dates of when corrections were made or notes when/why corrections will be completed in the future. John Hallin and I will meet with the Trustees at the end of their season to go over remaining issues. John continued to check on their logs while I was on vacation.
- 110 Jerusalem Road – well driller applied for a geothermal well permit, however, the site plan was not legible. Reached out to driller but have not received an acceptable plan.
- 790 CJC – The septic piping beneath the strip mall building (beneath Kennedy Bros PT) was finally removed and replaced by Rosano Davis last week. For years there were ongoing sewage releases into the building during times of high groundwater due to sagging and blocked pipes.
- Red Lion Inn – completed pool inspection with their third party Certified Pool Operator (CPO) and their facility manager. Went over needed upgrades and issued pool permit.
- Evoke Wellness – received a bacteria report from Morrell Labs that was off the charts for their soft serve ice cream machine. Contacted the manager and had them break down the machine and clean/sanitize all of the parts on a daily basis.
- 807 CJC – responded to Brenda Douglas at Cohasset Water Dept. They should not turn on water to that property until the install a new septic system (plan was approved by BoPH). Site currently sits in a nitrogen sensitive zone and has a cesspool.

6:50 P.M.

Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin was absent from the meeting but, has been sending the Board the following reports:

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/1/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1315

Total number of Probable cases: 170

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: eighteen.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 7.61% (276 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Low.**

Plymouth – **Low.**

DPH call:

Paxlovid Covid 19 Therapeutic Telehealth – available to any resident over the age of eighteen. No insurance required, but you do need an address. Person will be evaluated via a telehealth visit. If appropriate will be prescribed Paxlovid.

Monkeypox – to date there have been twenty-one cases in Mass. Mass DPH will take the lead on cases but may require assist from LBOH. There are two vaccines available for use by people who are at risk due to their job. There is also an antiviral medication called TPOXX, that is FDA approved.

Community Outreach:

6/27/22

Investigated a case of salmonella. I was notified by the Infection Control Nurse at SSH that this is the second case of salmonella in people who have eaten at the same restaurant. The source appears to be a restaurant in Braintree. A food borne illness complaint form filed with Mass DPH and Braintree Health Department.

6/28/22

Went to Holly Hill Farm. Recreational camp inspection completed; permit issued.

6/29/22

Met with Mike McGinley, rep from Sanofi Pasteur. Reviewed flu order for the 2022/2023 flu season. Returned thirty doses of expired flu vaccine. Credit will be issued.

6/29/22

Listened to a webinar sponsored by MHOA about the "toolkit" they have developed called, Opioid Toolkit for addressing the Opioid epidemic. The toolkit was developed to assist cities and towns in anticipation of the Opioid settlement funds which will be dispersed this summer.

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6/30/22

Participated in a Zoom call with Elder Affairs and the police department. Met to discuss two at risk elders. Stephanie Saunders has filed elder neglect reports on both. Stephanie and I will make follow up home visits next week.

6/30/22 Administered Vitamin B12 IM to an elderly resident.

7/1/22 Received an email from a resident who thinks she may have been bitten or scratched by a bat. She was seen and treated at SSH. She killed the bat but would like to have it tested. Reached out to Josh Kimball, animal control officer. He will pick up the bat and take it to the State lab for testing.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/8/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases:

Total number of Probable cases:

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: eighteen.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.17% (257 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Community Outreach:

7/5/22

Worked with the facilities department to distribute 1500 rapid antigen test kits to the police department, fire department, elder affairs, the library, and recreation center. We have received the test kits from the Mass DPH to made available free of charge to any Cohasset resident.

7/7/22

Attended a meeting with Pam Fahey, Mike Lopes (Cohasset PD), Nicole Balaschi (Safe Harbor), and Stephanie Saunders (social worker) to discuss the Opioid settlement fees that will be distributed to the town.

7/7/22

Participated in the weekly PHE Zoom call with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni and Brian Luther. Agreed to hire a contract Epi, a social worker, and a communicable disease clerk.

7/8/22

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Went to Cohasset Sports Complex to complete the recreational camp inspection for Challenger Sports camp. The staff onsite were different from what had been filed in the application. Found them to be out of compliance with staff immunizations, camper physical, Epipen for a camper and expired antibiotic ointment in the first aid box. Director – Scott Francis called. Informed him that they were out of compliance and camp would need to be shut down. He said the camp was finished in half an hour. No permit issued. They are returning 8/8/22. I have asked Scott to send me staff physicals and immunization records as soon as available so they can be reviewed. He agreed to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/15/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1331

Total number of Probable cases: 171

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: nineteen.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.75% (257 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

DPH call:

Drought status – there are varying degrees of drought status, and the situation is getting worse. EEA has a drought management website which is updated weekly.

Dr. Horan, who is the State Dental Director, gave a presentation on fluoride. Fluoride is a mineral which helps to decrease tooth decay. Cohasset is fully fluoridated. Unfortunately, there are supply chain induced challenges.

Data Reporting – as the pandemic evolves, data will reflect trends as opposed to daily numbers. Numbers will now be released weekly as well as wastewater data.

Monkeypox – the State now has forty-two confirmed cases. Isolation period can last from 2 – 4 weeks. Close contacts do not need to quarantine but must monitor for symptoms for 21 days. Three labs are licensed to perform testing in the state. CDC has released a limited supply of Jynneos vaccine for post exposure prophylaxis.

Community Outreach:

7/11/22

Investigated a suspect case of Ehrlichiosis.

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7/13/22

Coordinated the pickup of two cases of used sharps by Stericycle.

7/14/22

Spoke with Scott Francis from Challenger Sports camp. He emailed the immunizations and physicals for camp staff who will be directing the next session scheduled for 8/8 – 8/12/22. Both staff members are missing required vaccines. Scott notified.

Attended the weekly PHE grant meeting with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni and Brian Luther.

Met with Nicole Reilly, contact tracer who will be working for Cohasset and Hingham as part of the PHE grant. She is available to assist with Covid cases.

Spoke with both John Hallin, building inspector and Stephanie Saunders about 211 South Main Street. John Hallin is concerned as the home is not safe to live in. Stephanie is working with the two residents encouraging them to find other living arrangements. John will condemn the building once other housing has been found.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/29/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases:

Total number of Probable cases:

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: twelve.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.49% (212 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Maven call:

We were informed this week that Mass DPH will no longer be taking the lead on monkeypox cases. The LBOH will take the lead with an Epi at the State level available to assist. As such, a special webinar was held on 7/26/22 for an in-depth training on disease investigation and contact tracing. The WHO is now calling the situation a Public Health Emergency.

Thirty-six additional cases of monkey pox were diagnosed in the last 7 days bringing the total to 115 cases. There are now thirteen sites across the State that are vaccinating.

DPH call:

“Stop the Spread sites will remain open through 3/21/23. Stoop the Spread sites offer free PCR tests for Covid.

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Novavax vaccine, another Covid vaccine, will now be available to LBOH's. It is to be used for first and second doses but cannot be used to boost. This vaccine is a 2-dose series with the second dose given 3 – 8 weeks after the first dose.

Community Outreach:

7/25/22

Hand delivered a letter to Holly Hill Farm informing them the plan for a camper with a preexisting medical condition is not safe and I am unable to approve their health care policy for this camper. Letter received by Bruce Frost – camp Director.

7/25/22

Investigated two cases of salmonella in the same household. Most likely related to travel.

7/28/22

Listened to a webinar called “Predicting human Disease Risk from animal - borne pathogens. The Alabama Regional Center for Infection Prevention and Control Training and Technical Assistance presents “Predicting human disease risk from animal-borne pathogens.” In this webinar, Dr. Barbara Han, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will explore recent approaches that combine knowledge about animal ecology with machine learning and artificial intelligence tools to make predictions about where and from which species the risks of zoonotic outbreaks are greatest. Examples will emphasize the ongoing spillback transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to animals, and the risk of establishing new viral reservoirs of COVID-19; predicting wild reservoirs of bat-borne filoviruses (Ebola, Marburg) and rodent-borne pathogens such as monkeypox.

7/28/22

Made a home visit to a homebound resident to administer Vitamin B12.

7/29/22

Have received our first potential exposure to monkeypox. Working with Mass DPH to determine the proper course of action.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 7/22/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1337

Total number of Probable cases: 170

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: fifteen.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 8.26% (218 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

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Maven call:

Monkey Pox – Dr. Katie Brown discussed the evolving situation. There is no evidence you can transmit before symptomatic. Need to have direct contact with the lesions or items, such as towels, sheets, or clothes, that have come in contact with the lesions. Also, can be spread by large respiratory droplets during prolonged face to face contact.

There are now 5 commercial labs that are doing testing. They are Labcorp, Mayo, Quest, Sonic, and Aegis. Results are usually available in 24 – 48 hours.

Anyone who is tested needs to isolate until test results received. If positive, then isolation period can be from 2 – 4 weeks. A person is cleared from isolation when the lesions have scabbed over and healed. Close contacts need to monitor themselves for symptoms for up to 21 days after exposure. They do not need to quarantine.

There is a vaccine called Jynneos. It is available in limited supply from the CDC. It is a 2-dose series and must be administered within 4 days of exposure. There is also an antiviral tablet called Tecovirimat.

Mass DPH is holding a training session on July 26th for LBOH's. Case investigation and contact tracing will be turned over to local health departments.

Hepatitis A – one of the State Epi's reviewed signs, symptoms, lab results and how to interpret them, and when to vaccinate.

Community Outreach:

7/18/22

Saw 5 clients at Willcutt Commons.

Reached out to Sunrise Assisted Living – they currently have a cluster of 5 people with Covid. None are hospitalized and all are mildly ill. Reviewed infection control procedures with the Executive Director.

Spoke with Bruce Frost from Holly Hill Farm. They have contacted a couple of agencies about a temporary nurse for one week to accommodate a camper. They do not feel they can afford the rate. Options discussed. Reached out to the Community Sanitation program at DPH for further guidance. They are required by Federal ADA laws to accommodate the camper. Bruce notified.

7/19/22

Spoke with Scott Francis – Challenger Sports camp. 2 of his staff are not fully vaccinated for religious reasons. Call Mass DPH Community Sanitation – they need to provide a letter from their MD stating they are in good health. He will inform them.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

APPROVED

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 8/5/22

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 1358

Total number of Probable cases: 173

Deaths: five

The Town's total two-week caseload is: eighteen.

The Town's two-week positive test rate is results 10.50% (219 total tests)

Community Transmission by County:

Norfolk – **Medium.**

Plymouth – **Medium.**

Community Outreach:

8/1/22

Held office hours at Willcutt Commons – saw four clients.

8/2/22

Attended a meeting with Pam Fahey and Stephanie Saunders to discuss how she will work under the PHE grant. She has been speaking with both the social worker from Scituate and Hingham discussing projects they can collaborate on to present to the three communities. Scituate is currently not part of the PHE grant but hopefully that will change.

8/4/22

Attended the PHE grant meeting via Zoom with Pam Fahey, Susan Sarni, Betty Nee, Brian Luther and Stephanie Saunders. Stephanie introduced herself to the group and presented some programs and ideas that she has planned.

8/5/22

Received a call from a resident requesting a home visit for a wound assessment. Home visit made – wound assessed; dressing applied. Reviewed signs and symptoms of infection, proper wound care, proper disposal of old dressing material and when to contact MD.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin RN

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

SECONDED BY: Ms. Kirkpatrick

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED