



**TOWN OF LANCASTER – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Thursday, December 23, 2021, 9:30 AM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Paster called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Roll Call Attendance: Kathy Holden here, John Farnsworth here, and Jeff Paster here.

Staff: William Brookings, Health Agent and Debra Dennis, Office Manager

Chair Paster gave an overview of how the meeting would be run.

**Permits**

**580 Fort Pond Road-Dbox**-William Brookings, Health Agent said the application and fee hasn't been received yet.

**Title-5 Inspection Reports**

- **580 Fort Pond Road (2)**-Bill Brookings said we are waiting for fees to be paid.
- **700 Fort Pond Road**- Bill Brookings said we are waiting for fees to be paid.
- **387 Sterling Street**-Bill Brookings said this was a pass.
- **328 Mill Street Ext**-Bill Brookings said this was a pass.
- **2157 North Main**-Bill Brookings said on the Title 5 report it was called out that the system was covered with roots. There is an understanding that no deep root vegetation be over the system. He said the Board can support or buyer beware. He recommended letting the owner take care of this since it isn't code specific. John Farnsworth agreed. Bill Brookings said the Board should emphasize prudent to remove it but leave it up to buyer and seller. Chair Paster acknowledged no action is needed by the Board of Health.

**Other Permits**

- **Kalon Farms, Food Service Permit**-Member John Farnsworth said at the Select Board's meeting it was brought up. He said they haven't applied for the other permitting. This was put on the agenda before so Bridgett Braley our Food Service Inspector could explain the permit process to the Board of Health. The Board decided to put together any questions and forward them to Bridgett.

## **Discussion**

**Revisiting Masking, Face Covering Mandate, updates as available**-Chair Paster said the case numbers are continuing to rise in Lancaster due to the Omicron variant. The face mask criteria (3). Mr. Gaffney has some concerns about the impact on people in general. Mr. Gaffney read a statement. He said all our lives have been turned upside down. We have preventatives available. We have treatments. The masks are not treatments. He discussed social issues concerning babies not seeing faces. He asked the Board to look at the resources. Chair Paster thanked him for making the call and being here today. He said the Board discussed these issues as an update. Fire Chief Mike Hanson said a lot of the towns around us has an advisory not a mandate. He asked if the Board might think about this. It seems like local businesses/employees aren't following it. Chair Paster said when this was first discussed we looked at advisory and mandate. He said for the Board of Health to change their policy to an advisory they would be saying there is less of concern. Mr. Gaffney said he is asking to make it a choice.

John Farnsworth stated the wastewater treatment plant at AUC has been decommissioned. The hollow had a direct line to the Nashua River. This is a huge positive for us.

**Vax Clinics, follow-up, and discussion**-Chair Paster discussed the Nashoba and BOH clinics in addition. The Board discussed two dates for Pediatric, Booster, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> dose-clinics which will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Year 20-29 Age Group**-Chair Paster shared the plan to try to improve the vaccination rate for the lowest age groups 20–29-year-olds. The plan is to do focus mailing, work with the commonwealth mobile vaccination program to provide evening and weekend vaccination clinics, and request evening and weekend vaccination clinics from the NABH.

**Donation proposal, Orchard Hills Athletic Club**-Chair Paster said we received a phone call from Orchard Hill who is willing to support the Board of Health. He discussed the need for food and drink at the clinics and the postcard to the 20–29-year-olds. Cindy Curley from Orchard Hill said we want to be part of the solution and be a good community partner. She said they would provide \$2,500 dollars for funding/guest passes for the clinic. Chair Paster said we appreciate it. **John Farnsworth made a motion to accept the very generous donation. Katherine Holden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: John Farnsworth yes, Katherine Holden yes, and Jeff Paster yes.**

**COVID-19 Coordinator's Report**-Tracy Gagnon mentioned eighty-five people attended the booster clinic. Chair Paster announced Tracy Gagnon's resignation. He said she has done a great job.

**ARPA Disbursement Recommendations**- Jay Moody said we need more information; we have 3 or 4 years to spend the money. Chair Paster said the BOH talked about ARPA funding at the last meeting. The Board discussed other needs the town has. Chair Paster showed a form that could be submitted to all departments for ARPA requests. He said he sent it to Chief Hanson to get his opinion. Chief Hanson said he thinks it would be a great idea.

## **679 George Hill Road**

**BOH Follow-Up with LSDC**-Chair Paster read into the record the letter dated 11-11-2021 from the Lancaster Sewer District Commission. He said the Sewer district commission waiting for action by the DEP before they proceed. Bill Brookings asked them for confirmation but hasn't heard back yet. Francis McPartlan said his understanding is that DEP has no issues with the mansion. They are holding the process up because of the original compliance order from about 15 years ago. The Sewer District Commission was supposed to set up a monitoring program and until done they can't issue a final permit for the connection.

**Request extending sewer tie in date**-Frank McFarland requested extending the deadline from 2022 to 2023. He said he will do everything he can to get them connected by August but is trying to be proactive. Bill Brookings said it sounds like DEP is ok with the proposed flow but want them to do the other criteria originally asked for. Frank McFarland said the Lancaster Sewer District Commission can't issue permit until all administrative issues are done with DEP. Chair Paster suggested sending a letter that they understand DEP isn't allowing LSDC to issue a permit for 679 George Hill Rd until they issue a further plan about it.

**Atlantic Union College (AUC) WWTP Decommissioning**-John Farnsworth said it's an issue with sewer credits. The sewer credits will become available when DEP sees work done at AUC. Chair Paster asked this will affect what is going on at 679 George Hill Road. John Farnsworth said yes, this should mass enough credits to remedy a lot of this. Frank McFarland amended his request to six months instead of a year. Chair Paster said six months following the date of issuance of the permit. John Farnsworth said it is excessive. He wanted to push this to the next meeting so that LSDC can address this. This was tabled until the next meeting.

**81 Whitcomb Road**-Bill Brookings said there was an inspection done with Chief Hanson. He said everything sited has been addressed just waiting for the CO. The goal is to hand over keys tomorrow morning.

**Beaver Report on Permits Issued**-John Farnsworth said two permits have been issued. There is a large culvert. The beavers blocked up the entire roadway. The town had to rebuild a portion of the roadway. Four beavers were removed. The beavers were at Eagle Ridge on property given to the Conservation Commission. The beavers are quote destructive.

**Food Insecurity**-John Farnsworth said during the holidays there is more issues with food insecurity. He said he has been reaching out to everyone who he previously contacted with no success. He said he will continue to look for other resources.

**Recent Raccoon events**-John Farnsworth discussed the raccoon attack. The Board posted information on the website about it.

**Next meeting date**-Chair Paster said the next meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am via zoom.

## **Adjourn**

**John Farnsworth made a motion to adjourn. Katherine Holden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Katherine Holden yes, John Farnsworth yes, and Jeff Pastor yes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted.

Debra Dennis