



## **OBSERVER CORPS REPORT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH - 7-11-23**  
Hybrid Meeting. Meeting Recorded.  
LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

Members in Attendance: Andrew Petty, Tom McMahon, Joanne Miller, Helaine Hazlett

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1. Reorganization**

The first order of business was the election of chair for the board following the recent election in June. Mr. McMahon nominated Ms. Miller citing a tension that he has had with Ms. Hazlett, saying the chair should have leadership qualities, e.g., citing an absence of a sticker on her car. This was not seconded. Then Ms. Miller nominated Ms. Hazlett and this was seconded. Ms. Miller talked of Ms. Hazlett's devotion to the community, trust in the board, and expertise. Ms. Hazlett was elected by a vote of 2-1. Next Ms. Miller was nominated for vice chair. This was seconded and the vote was 3-0.

Ms. Hazlett in her new role welcomed Mr. McMahon to the board and discussed how the board functions - Open Meeting Law, Robert's Rules, monthly meetings, decisions by the board once voted on are supported by the board, etc.

#### **2. Mental Health Task Force**

Ms Miller gave an update of the task force's work. A subcommittee of the task force was formed for strategic planning and included professionals with experience to build and develop such planning. The overall goals are to set short term goals (this year) and to plan ahead over a three period. The mission when the MHTF was first formed was mental health during the pandemic. Now "we are in a different place and goals have changed." The first meeting of the subcommittee will be on 7/24 at the Gerry 5; all are welcome. Kirsten Bosworth will facilitate the group; this is a role she does professionally. Ms. Miller was questioned about room for more members on the subcommittee. The inclusion of Tom Massaro was suggested as he has been coming to all the MHTF meetings and has extensive background.

### 3. Director's Report

- A. Each board member needs to complete a "conflict of interest" certificate and return to the Health Director
- B. Beach testing - samples are taken each week on a Wednesday one hour before or one hour after high tide. To date all the tests have been "good". The tests are for an organism, enterococci, an indicator of contamination. The failure index is 104. The tests at MHD beaches have all been <10 except Gashouse beach, 40 and Devereaux 31. There are seven beaches tests: Devereaux, Crocker Park, Gas house, Grace Oliver, Stramski, Village, and Sunset. (Note - Riverhead is NOT a beach.) If there is a test failure, a second sample is taken, and if this fails, the beach is closed. (The exception is for Gas House - one failure, triggers beach closure.) Mr. Petty noted there has been a lot of news of beaches closed in MA and the reality is that it is 50 out of 1100 fresh and salt water beaches that have been closed. MHD results are not posted as there is a website run by the state that lists all the results. The board requested that a link to the MA website be created on the department's website.
- C. Transfer station - the plan is to be presented to the Planning Board on 7/13. The plan only includes the buildings and not the compactor. The discussion then went to the replacement of the employee trailer. The ideal time will be when the new compactor is available and installed. Replacing the trailer is a complicated process as it requires the changes of electric, plumbing, cable, etc. The goal of replacing the trailer is to only do it once and avoid the area where the new scale house will be constructed. There was some debate about how long it would take for the new building and is it worth replacing the trailer if it is short term. Mr. Petty could not answer what the timeline would be. Ms. Miller moved that the trailer be replaced now even if it is short timeline. This was approved by the board.
- D. Air quality - the smoke of the Canadian wildfires has affected much of the East. Mr. Petty said there was a network of monitors (PurpleAir) in MHD to test for smoke, particulate matter, etc. (The three monitors are located at each fire station and at the transfer station.) The real time air quality can be viewed [map.purpleair.com](http://map.purpleair.com).
- E. Health inspector retirement - the current health inspector will retire this fall and the department is looking for a new one. The job and its requirements will be posted in September.

#### Public Comment

Ms. Tauro wanted to thank the board for proceeding with the new trailer, one that was seven years old.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8/7/23 at 7:30 pm