



## OBSERVER REPORT

### BOARD OF HEALTH - 9-28-22

LWVM Observer - Thomas Krueger

Members in Attendance via Zoom - BOH : Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker (chairperson), Sec. Andrea Flaxer, Joanne Greer Miller, Helaine Hazlett

### AGENDA

A facility sticker rebate was given to 9 Jersey Street who had purchased two stickers.

### TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

Andrew gave a quick review of the progress to date. The transfer station facility committee met on 9/8/22 and voted for Option A: all traffic commercial and residential entering the access road off Green Street and exiting on Woodfin Terrace. The vote was 4-0 with two abstentions, the BOH members who would vote at the BOH meeting.

Andrew reviewed what Option A entailed. An internal gate would block the access and open at 7AM. This would allow queuing of vehicles to happen on Transfer Station property, approximately 700 feet, so that no queuing would be on the street. The same process would happen at lunchtime. As noted before, the residential vehicles would proceed to the right (containers, lawn waste, etc.) whereas commercial vehicle would proceed to the left to the scale and the pit.

Andrew reviewed further the concerns from the residents of Arnold Terrace: possible barriers along the access road. Currently there are plantings, spruce and deciduous trees, about half-way along the road that borders Arnold Terrace. There is a wall that extends the entire length. (This owned and maintained by the residents of Arnold Terrace.) A possible mitigation could be planting arborvitae along the wall, as it is rapidly growing and is green year around. (The cost for this would come from the HD budget.) Sound barriers, such as seen on highways, only work for long distances, not short distances.

Another concern was pollution from vehicle exhaust. To measure this level, a device was placed on the scale house roof, so that traffic both coming in and leaving was measured. The results showed no increase. In fact, the highest level was on a Sunday when the transfer station was closed, a result of cloud and atmospheric conditions. Of note there are about 50 commercial vehicles a day of which very few are diesel. The design for the transfer station has a 50-year horizon, and in that time there are likely many technological changes, e.g., electric cars and trucks. Even now many vehicles when stopped, turn the engine off, so preventing fumes from idling. It is planned to have NO IDLING signs on the access road.

One of the BOH members asked Andrew to review Option B. In this option, residential traffic would enter the access road off Green Street and exit Woodfin Terrace. Commercial traffic would enter and leave via Woodfin Terrace. This might be confusing to TS users with residential entering via Woodfin Terrace. The flow pattern for the commercial users would have to be circular around the scale house, versus linear with Option A. Option B would require different placement of the scale house and staff facilities, a camera to monitor traffic, etc. The process of pulling up and backing onto the scale would be the same.

With either option there is likely to be a booth (heated and air conditioned) along the route for the residential traffic. It might be a transaction booth, although it planned to have transactions automated in the future.

At this point in the meeting the chair of the BOH had public participation. Seven people from the Arnold Terrace community spoke. One of the major concerns was traffic. Green Street is seeing more traffic now and this would mean still more traffic. It is likely the Coffin School property is to be sold and developed leading to even more traffic. Another resident was concerned with the queuing of each option and the idling problem. Other residents agreed with those concerns. Andrew discussed that whatever option was chosen, the choice would have to go before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. It is likely yet another traffic study would be requested.

After the public comment each of the BOH members proceeded to comment. Ms. Miller remarked that she had met with the residents of Arnold Terrace and found that very helpful. She has thought hard about the issues and would like to "lighten the load" on the residents. Ms. Hazlett also was very sympathetic to the health and safety of all the abutters. Dr. Belf-Becker, also sympathetic had spent much time considering the options. He felt that Option A was the most efficient, and either choice had pros and cons. He noted that the amount of space on the TS property would allow queuing to be beyond Arnold Terrace. The town engineer felt that Option B really doesn't help those on Arnold Terrace. He felt that there were only a small number of larger vehicles with most of the others, pick-up trucks or vans.

At this point a vote was taken for first Option A and then Option B. Option A was defeated 2-1. Option B was approved 2-1.

Matters of "housekeeping" were discussed: the project manager needs to review the design. A contract with CIGNET for transfer station camera needed review.

## WASTE BANS

The state of Massachusetts has bans on certain waste products, e.g. limit on construction materials of 6 cubic yards, to be dumped. Beginning 11/1/22 there will also be a textile ban. In MHD textiles are recycled into six different containers (about 45,000 last year.) In addition, on 11/1 there is a mattress ban, allowing only contaminated matters to be dumped. MHD currently has mattresses and box springs recycled for a cost (\$25). Offenders of the bans will be warned on first offense, and if not an account holder, prohibited from using the facility forever. An account holder will get two warnings prior to being prohibited. The BOH voted to have Andrew write up a policy to be presented at the next meeting.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. COVID - there are 19 active cases (reported cases) as of 9/23. The average daily incidence is 10.8/100,000 (higher); tests 117,725 (total) with 586 (last 14 days) - these are only PCR tests or those via a physician's office, not home tests. Of those 586 tests, 5.46% are positive (lower). These are good trends but we will all be moving inside more soon. MHD has a high vaccination rate. Andrew did recommend all get a FLU shot. The early flu season in Australia has been bad. The recommendation if test positive is to isolate for 5 days and then if improving or no symptoms, mask for five more.
2. Redd's Pond - Cyanobacteria were identified in Redd's Pond. The toxin from this bacteria can be deadly. After the positive test for cyanobacteria, the state lab returned and tested the pond again. Two consecutive tests were both negative. It may return. No other ponds have been tested. Of note it was a resident who alerted the HD to the possibility.
3. Flu clinics - now are underway with the employee clinic on 10/12 already full.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident want clarification about the amounts that are cited in the HD revolving fund, first in January and then in March. In January the amount was ~ \$750K and in the March, ~\$1.485 M. Why is this? Andrew explained that costs for disposal of waste at the TS is well above the budgeted amount that the town allows (\$725K). The shortfall is then made up by the revolving fund. (The Town has kept the budget level funded.) When the first estimate was made for January, he had to come up with the estimate by the prior September. But, as the year proceeded, he had a better estimate. Note, each year the cost of tonnage will increase.

The meeting was then adjourned with next for 10/12/22, the second Tuesday of the month.