



TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; Vice Chairman David McSweeney; Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD; and Libby Walendziewicz, RN, MSN

Board Members Not Present: Maribeth Welch

Staff Members Present: Susan Lumenello, REHS/RS, CHMM, Director of Public Health; and Christine Mathis, Environmental Engineer; and Sarah Courtemanche, Board of Health Administrative Assistant

Dr. Weiner called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:14 PM. This will be a remote meeting of the Burlington Board of Health. All votes will be taken by a roll call vote.

Ms. Walendziewicz recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: March 24, 2020

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of March 24, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voting in favor and Dr. Saltsman abstained from voting. (3-0-1)

Dr. Weiner introduced the Board of Health as well as staff who were present on the virtual meeting and this meeting is being recorded.

Mr. McSweeney read a statement that due to the current State of Emergency for the COVID-19 virus the Governor has issued an Executive Order on March 12, 2020 authorizing remote meetings under M.G.L c. 30A, Section 20. This meeting is being held via Cisco WebEx as a virtual/electronic meeting. Residents can join the meeting via the WebEx meeting number or by the phone number published on the Town of Burlington website. Residences can also leave questions on the BCAT Facebook page or they can call the Board of Health office.

Citizen's Time: No one called in.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner stated that these are challenging times and we are proving that we can meet the challenge. Dr. Weiner wanted to again thank Ms. Lumenello and staff, his Board members and Town Administrator Paul Sagarino for all the hard work that they have been doing during this crisis. He would also like to thank the MRC nurses for assisting in contact tracing, the school nurses and all non-medical MRC volunteers.

Ms. Lumenello thanked all the Town employees who have offered to help the Board of Health during this time.



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Subcommittee Reports:

There were no subcommittee reports.

Applications:

• **Site Plan and Special Permit – 150 Lexington Street**

Attorney Mark Vaughan from Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Joseph Salvetti, LSP from Stantec, Phil Henry from Civil Design Group, LLC, Samantha Burgner from Citizens Bank and Doug Benoit from Arista Development, LLC appeared for the applications for a Site Plan Approval and Special Permits at 150 Lexington Street. Attorney Vaughan stated that they will be appearing before the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for this project. They are proposing to construct a 2,700 square foot Citizens Bank in a portion of the existing Kohl's parking lot. There will be site upgrades, they are adding green space and the building will be slab on grade construction.

Dr. Weiner stated that there needs to be an active vapor barrier. Ms. Mathis replied that a passive system can be installed that can be made active. They can monitor the system by indoor air quality monitoring. Dr. Weiner asked how we will know if there is contamination if there is no ground water testing.

Mr. Salvetti stated that we don't know what the ground water quality is on site but we can install measures that will be implemented during construction such as installation of a vapor barrier with piping that could be brought up through the building. If there is contamination then they can make the system active. We could get ground water data or indoor air quality monitoring.

Mr. McSweeney stated that he would prefer that the groundwater data be collected now. He is glad that the building is on a slab but he would like the data collection first. Dr. Salzman agreed that the data needs to be collected ahead of time and we need to be concerned with testing in the future. Ms. Walendziewicz also agreed that ground water testing should be done to get a baseline. Mr. McSweeney stated that there should be a condition that groundwater testing is required first. Dr. Weiner stated that the applicant does not own the land so they could just put in an active system.

Dr. Weiner stated that there are plumes of contamination in the area but we have no idea what exactly is there or if the plumes extend to the proposed location of the bank. People will be in the building and he is concerned with their wellbeing. Mr. Salvetti stated that there is no great study that he could find about the contamination in the aquifer and without actual data we can't say there is no contamination without testing. Mr. Salvetti stated that this site is not a MCP site, but a radon type system could be deployed to remove any contaminants.

Attorney Vaughn stated that if the data needs to be collected ahead of time we will but we are proposing a system that can be turned on if there is a problem. Ms. Lumenello stated her concern is when the testing stops and wouldn't it be easier to install an active system.

Ms. Mathis stated that an active radon system could be used that is similar to the one allowed at 181 Cambridge Street. Mr. Salvetti stated that as long as the fan is running in the system, it will prevent vapors



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from getting into the building. Mr. McSweeney stated that if a radon system is put in, is the vapor barrier still installed. Mr. Salvetti replied yes, the vapor barrier membrane is identical, the piping is installed and the only difference is the fan or blower for the radon system is not as intense but it is active when it is installed.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to postpone approval of 150 Lexington Street until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walenziewicz. The motion was rescinded.

Ms. Mathis read the condition that was approved for the 181 Cambridge Street project. “The Board of Health requires that a vapor barrier system and a radon style active soil vapor mitigation system be included in the building construction. The vapor barrier and mitigation system design will be approved by a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer and a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional. Applicable indoor air-quality testing will be conducted prior to building occupancy and six months thereafter. Continued air-quality testing is required every six months if the mitigation system does not remain continually active. Air-quality testing results must be submitted to the Board of Health immediately following receipt of the results.”

Mr. McSweeney stated that he would be comfortable with that condition. Ms. Lumenello stated that we would still have air testing with this system. Mr. McSweeney asked who does the testing. Attorney Vaughn stated that it would be Citizen’s Bank that would be responsible. Ms. Mathis stated that they need to provide the reports to the Board. Mr. McSweeney asked if the grade will be changed. Mr. Henry stated that they are reducing the pavement. The water drains front to back and they are not changing drainage. Ms. Mathis stated that they have already submitted the required document for Condition #2.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Site Plan and Special Permits for 150 Lexington Street with the modification to Condition #1 to read: “The Board of Health requires that a vapor barrier system and a radon style active soil vapor mitigation system be included in the building construction. The vapor barrier and mitigation system design will be approved by a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer and a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional. Applicable indoor air-quality testing will be conducted prior to building occupancy and six months thereafter. Continued air-quality testing is required every six months if the mitigation system does not remain continually active. Air-quality testing results must be submitted to the Board of Health immediately following receipt of the results. The radon style vapor mitigation system must be able to be modified to a more robust system should testing warrant additional air movement.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously voted. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walenziewicz, Dr. Weiner and Dr. Saltsman voted in favor. (4-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Walenziewicz moved to discuss Staff Reports first. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walenziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Dr. Weiner stated that as staff reports show, work is still ongoing including plan review, inspections and handling other communicable diseases.



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Ms. Mathis presented her report:

- The Household Hazardous Waste Day on April 18th is cancelled but they are looking to still have one in the fall if possible.
- The other outlets that residents have used (Clean Harbors in Braintree and the Lexington recycling facility on Hartwell Ave) are both closed.
- Construction is still ongoing. Plan Reviews, demolition approvals, inspections of test pits and inspections for Certificate of Occupancies are still being conducted.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Environmental Engineer's report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Director of Public Health

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- The Director's report also includes reports from the Health Agent, Supervisory Nurse and Associate Health Inspector going back to January.
- All of her activities in the last month have been all COVID-19 related. Originally she was working on getting the Town offices ready and protected but now she is primarily concentrating on contact tracing and complying with Governmental orders and essential services including staying in touch with food establishments and supermarkets.

Dr. Saltsman noted that the Health Agent is still responding to food establishments to make sure they are in compliance.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Director of Public Health's report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Discussions:

- **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Ms. Lumenello gave an overview of the last 2 weeks:

- They are working on contact tracing which takes a lot of time, usually over an hour. The cases are assigned and tracking has to be on paper and delivered by hand due to the confidential information. She, the Supervising Nurse, the Health Agent, and the Associate Health Agent have all been trained on the State database. The Supervising Nurse does the follow up.
- The State is offering public health students to help and they should be trained in a few days.
- They are conducting conference calls with DPH/MAVEN twice a week and once a week with Region 4.
- The State is working with Partners Health to start doing the tracing. There is no timetable for this but when it does happen it will help them tremendously.



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- Youth and Family Services are getting information on what is needed from families in quarantine.
- Volunteers must join the MRC online. They are not taking public volunteers.
- Supermarkets need to provide a way for employees to protect themselves. They should have masks available but they are not mandated to wear them.
- The State is not forcing people to wear masks in public but they are recommending them.
- The Police are going around to parks and asking large groups to disburse.

Ms. Walendziewicz stated that Partners In Health is a non-profit that the State is working with, not Partner's Health that is a private organization.

Dr. Saltsman stated that masks in public will help with the spreading of the disease. Dr. Saltsman stated that washing hands is so important. The virus can be destabilized with soap and warm water. Surfaces should be cleaned often and you should protect your cough and sneeze so not to spread the virus.

Dr. Weiner thanked everyone who is working so hard during this pandemic. We are getting questions if we are doing enough to educate the public. We are currently posting information on BCAT and our website. We are releasing the numbers of cases on BCAT, our website and the Patch. Dr. Saltsman stated that he does not see the purpose with giving these numbers. They do not represent the true number because there is not enough testing and there are people who are non-symptomatic. The numbers serve no purpose. Mr. McSweeney agreed that the numbers are not accurate and is only a snapshot in time. Ms. Walendziewicz stated that she doesn't care either way but the numbers are meaningless. Dr. Weiner stated that we could put a statement that these numbers have limitations. We should look at this at the next meeting. Ms. Lumenello stated that the numbers we report is the number of cases open now and is not cumulative. Each Town reports the numbers differently. Dr. Saltsman stated that people who want the numbers should look at a reliable source like the CDC and only look at that one source.

Mr. McSweeney thanked Ms. Lumenello and the entire staff, this Board and especially Dr. Weiner for all his hard work.

Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Cathcart,
Recording Clerk*



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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

Agenda

Minutes: March 24, 2020

Chairman's Report: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Applications:

● **Site Plan and Special Permit – 150 Lexington Street:**

Memo from C. Mathis dated April 14, 2020; Site Plan dated 03/02/20 from Civil Design Group, LLC; Planning Board application for Site Plan and Special Permits dated March 2, 2020 with attachments

Discussion:

● **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Actions** – See Director's Report

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report; Director of Public Health's Report