



TOWN OF CHILMARK
CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Health

401 Middle Road
Post Office Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535
Tel: (508) 645-2105
mlent@chilmarkma.gov
Hours: 9am to 2pm, M-F

To: Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Fm: Chilmark Board of Health

November 9, 2018

Re: Chilmark Community Center PWS #4062006

At its meeting of October 17, 2018, the Board of Health heard from representatives of the Vineyard Conservation Society about placing a proposed drinking water bottle refill station outside the Chilmark Community Center building. The Board supports making our clean drinking water available to the public at this location. Appropriate equipment that is well-managed is clearly an asset to the public, and encouraging consumption of clean ground water over commercial processed drinks is an important public health priority.

We have the following observations: as you know, the Chilmark Community Center is a public water system, which is currently operated by Board of Health staff member Marina Lent. She informs us that, with proper sanitation, maintenance and testing procedures, an approved and certified unit can certainly be placed at this location.

However, she has also brought to our attention that she is in fact not adequately certified to act as PWS operator for this system, and is "grandfathered" as an operator by the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the condition that she obtain proper certification in the near future. However, this level of certification is not foreseen in the position description for the BOH staff person.

We therefore believe this to be an opportune time to divest the BOH position of the responsibilities of the PWS Operator for the Chilmark Community Center/Library, and for the town to engage a licensed PWS Operator for this system. This is also an opportunity for the facilities served by this system to incorporate the costs of operating it into their respective budgets. Be advised along these lines that Cape Air no longer provides freight services. Tests other than bacteria must be sent to the Drinking Water Lab in Barnstable for testing unless and until an on-Island lab is State-certified to conduct these tests for public water systems.

A PWS Operator for CCC and Library would be responsible for developing sanitation and maintenance for the water bottle filling station in accordance with DEP Drinking Water regulations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Carroll".

Katherine L. Carroll, Chair
Chilmark Board of Health

Cc: Samantha Look and Signe Benjamin, Vineyard Conservation Society;
Tim Carroll, Chilmark Town Administrator
Ebba Hierta, Chilmark Library Director