

HARVARD BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING 9/14/10
HELD IN HILDRETH HOUSE AT 6:00 PM

Members Present: Jack Spero, Chairman
Lorin Johnson
Tom Phillippou
Also Present: Ira Grossman, R.S. NABOH
John Osborne, Harvard Press

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spero at 6:10 pm.

Town Center Septic System Waiver

Tom Phillippou has drafted two forms for the town center septic system project. One is a “Waiver of Title 5 Inspection” and the other is a “Waiver of Title 5 Upgrade/Repair” form. Tom stated he will be submitting them for Town Counsel for review.

Triple E Discussion

Jack Spero began the discussion by informing the members that Tim Deschamps, from Central Mass Mosquito Control, is willing to come to Harvard to give an informational talk concerning mosquito spraying. Jack said that a resident in town is interested in presenting information about the possible hazards of spraying. He will try to contact that person.

Tom Phillippou stated his concerns with a recent Harvard Press newspaper article and felt that the headline understated the serious nature of the recent reports of people infected with Triple E. He added that a pro-active approach is necessary and beneficial. There was a discussion with John Osborne of the Harvard Press; John stated that the headline was misleading and understated the concern of Triple E.

Also discussed was the best way to notify residents with information concerning Triple E. At some point, the reverse 911 system had been a consideration; however, the Selectmen decided not to utilize that option. Information on the Triple E threat is available on the town website and by telephone notification in the event of an emergency.

Lorin Johnson stressed that we cannot take this problem lightly and that we need to find the best way to communicate the information to the townspeople. He also stated that we should work with the Selectmen to find the best solution for disseminating information.

Meeting rooms and dates will be looked into to hold an informational meeting; Jack Spero will try to reach an interested citizen who wishes to discuss the concerns with spraying. A tentative date of October 14th was suggested. A meeting room must be reserved along with the contacting the speakers to see their availability.

Pond Road Sign

There is a posted sign on Pond Road which reads, "No Animals." Board members have been attempting to find out when this sign was posted and why. The sign seems to prohibit residents from walking their dogs out of their own road. Ira Grossman thought perhaps the sign was originally posed because the pond is a public water supply.

Jack Spero will get in touch with a former Park & Recreation commissioner to see if he has knowledge of the origin of the sign.

Permits

The following permits were signed:

50 Turner Lane

Prospect Hill Road, Lot 2

West Bare Hill Road, Lot 10817

Long Range Goals

Some long range goals were discussed.

1. Public Education
2. Still River District
3. 2011 Budget
4. Possible Triple E Funding Mechanisms

Still River Septic Concept - Tom remarked that we need a format for resolving septic area problems; there are certain areas in town that are in need of assistance. It was suggested that establishing some consistent guidelines for these areas would be prudent.

Triple E Funding Mechanisms/Ideas - In the event that Triple E is still a threat this coming spring, board members discussed being proactive to the situation. Ideas were to ask for funding ahead of time; have an available amount of money earmarked for mosquito control measures ready to use. Ira Grossman commented that in an emergency situation, the money can be spent and then the funds made available. Tom Phillipou was curious if we have trained applicators in town. The benefits and risks were discussed of the environment vs. the individual. There are also chemical-free sprays; it is not known how effective they are. The person from Central Mass Mosquito Control can answer these questions.

Jack Spero moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm; motion seconded by Tom Phillipou; vote: aye, unanimous.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28th at the Hildreth House, 7:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Linda Cantillon