



# BOARD OF HEALTH

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## MINUTES

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Tuesday, November 27, 2012  
Hildreth House

*Thomas Philippou, Chair*      *Lorin Johnson*      *Sharon McCarthy*

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This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Tom Philippou. Board members Lorin Johnson and Sharon McCarthy were also in attendance. Also present were Ira Grossman, RS, NABOH and Paige O'Brien, clerk.

### **Discussion: School Committee and MOU Clarification**

Mr. Philippou met with School Committee Chair, Keith Cheveralls and BoS member, Ron Ricci regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee, Selectmen and Board of Health. Members of the school committee were under the impression that the memorandum was, after 10 years, set to expire - signifying that the HES Kindergarten wing would need replacement due to the mold problem. Mr. Philippou explained to them that the intent of the MOU was that the Board of Health would not act "arbitrarily and capriciously" in closing down the school without cause. The MOU was drafted to ensure the BOH would use all jurisprudence and common sense in assessing the continued problem and resolution of the problem and the town would not have to create a new school building or demolish and rehabilitate the one that existed.

From an on-going perspective, the School Committee, Mr. Philippou states, has done a great job resolving the problem. Regular air quality testing results have indicated that the measures taken were effective. The Board sees no reason for any call to action as long as these outcomes remain positive and healthy. The School Committee will be invited to a future BOH meeting so this clarification can be shared with them.

Another topic that arose from this meeting was the need to update the schools' administration building (Bromfield House). An estimate of \$400,000 is necessary to make these appraises, but that would then trigger issues involving ADA requirements, therefore bringing the approximation up to around \$1.2 million. Mr. Philippou recommended to Mr. Cheveralls that the School Committee consider looking into locating within the new town hall which would yield synergies with the administrative staff and could allow funds earmarked for The Bromfield House renovation to be applied to the town hall improvements.

### **Update: 143 Stow Road**

In early November the office of the BOH received a phone call from an officer at the Harvard Police Department who informed Ms. O'Brien that a complaint (more of a concern) was reported by a real estate agent who was showing this property and was surprised to find a man occupying the residence. It was later revealed that this man, Douglas Wells, is the owner and,  
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although there are multiple liens on the property, he still has permission to be there. BOH members, along with Mr. Grossman and Ms. O'Brien, have been doing some investigation and making some phone calls to ascertain the safety of Mr. Well's living conditions. There is no electricity, heat or hot water. Inquiries have been made on his behalf to the Veteran's office and COA and representative of both have followed up with him. The police department has him on a list for frequent check-ins. Mr. Philippou will contact and seek advice from Cheryl Sbarra, MAHB Sr. Staff Atty., who recently led a discussion entitled, "Public Health Case Law Foreclosures, Abandoned Housing and Evictions" at MAHB's recent certificate program.

### **BOH Website**

Ms. O'Brien has organized a schedule with Liz Allard (authorized to modify the Town website) to make regular updates to the BOH section. Ms. O'Brien will also make arrangements with Julie Doucet to set up a "Board of Health News" subscription that residents can sign up for. The Board agreed to make individual proposals for the new mission statement to discuss and vote at the next meeting.

### **Update: Social Media Proposal**

Ms. O'Brien has sent an inquiry to the Hudson Board of Health to find out about their policies regarding their Facebook page.

### **Update: Letter to Engineers re: Article VII (digital submissions)**

Tabled until December 11 meeting.

### **Permits**

- 72 Brown Road, Upgrade SRC, Approved
- W. Bare Hill Road, Lot 42, New, Approved
- Prospect Hill Road, Lot 1, Extension, Approved
- 209 Stow Road, Upgrade, Approved
- 22 Glenview Drive, New, Approved

### **Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2012**

Mr. Philippou made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Mr. Johnson seconds; vote aye, unanimous.

### **Other Business**

- Board received an email from Chief Sicard inviting participation in a Harvard Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting. Mr. Philippou will follow up with available dates.
- Ms. McCarthy discussed a grant program for "community septic management". She will research the process and discuss her findings at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Philippou made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:10, motion seconded by Mr. Johnson. Vote: aye, unanimous.

**The next scheduled board meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 2012  
7 p.m. at Hildreth House.**