



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH

60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

PHONE: 978-465-4410

WEBSITE: www.cityofnewburyport.com



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Board & Staff Present:

Dr. Robin Blair, Board Chair
Dr. Richard Tilson, Board Member
Lina Matta, Board Member
Jim McCauley, Ward 5
Andrew Port, Planning Department
Phil Christiansen
Ashley Belanger
Maureen Herald
David Daily
Lisa Mead

Laura Vlasuk, Director of Public Health
Kristine Harris, Public Health Nurse
Kayla Provencher, Animal Control
Greg Earls, Building Commissioner
Matt Belanger
Jeff Blake
Jane Snow
Matt Hamor
Jonathan Miller

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023

- I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Blair at 5:12pm
- II. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings
Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Blair, seconded by Dr. Tilson. Motion passes 2-0.
- III. Lisa Mead request for waiver of 8 Doyle Drive (the "Property"). Ms. Mead explained the location of the construction and explained that she was requesting a waiver and not a variance since this will have no impact to the neighbors and will have no impact to public health. Ms. Mead stated that she has several letters from neighbors in support of this request. Ms. Mead provided documentation and photos (see attached) from developers, building department and explained that not granting this waiver would delay the resale of this property.
Dr. Tilson: Is the pump on the property operating and currently pumping?
David Daily: Yes
Dr. Tilson: Is the sump pump at this property actively running?
David Daily: It is not.
Jeff Blake: Questioned why they were requesting a waiver and not a variance?
Lisa Mead: Explained that a waiver was easier since there was a choice.

Jeff Blake: Inquired if there were any foundation drains?

Lisa Mead: Explained that there was not and that they were not required by the previous building commissioner.

Jeff Blake: Asked if there was crushed stone under the property and how much?

David Daly: Explained that there is approximately 12 inches of crushed stone.

Jeff Blake: Asked if there had been any addition mediation?

Lisa Mead: Explained that there had been additional mediation and that has been inspected by Greg Earls, the current Building Commissioner.

Phil Christiansen: Stated that he has not been in the home but if they did make these changes he has not seen them and he would defer to the Building Commissioner

Jim McCauley, Ward 5: Stated that there may have been a disturbance and the two separations on this location was an original slab, that is why a floor drain was not required.

Lisa Mead: Stated that the previous building commissioner was in the home when the home had a full basement.

Jim McCauley: Explained that he was informing the board of health that a drain may have not been required, since this property was originally designed without a basement.

Lisa Mead: Again, stated that there was a full basement when the previous building commissioner came to inspect the property.

Dr. Blair: Inquired if this was the only property with a full basement?

David Daily: Explained that some have full basements and that they added a basement to this property at their cost, since this was a 40 B project, there was no additional value to them.

Lisa Mead: Continues to explain what had happened at the property prior and offered the Board a 5-year warranty.

Dr. Blair and Dr. Tilman: deliberated.

Dr. Tilson made a motion to grant applicant's requested waiver subject with two conditions. One, applicant shall provide a 10year written warranty against any water infiltration into the basement of the property; and second applicant shall be responsible for maintenance of all stormwater surface drains at the property including all exterior and interior (sump pumps etc.) components. Dr. Blair seconded. Motion passed 2-0. (Lina Metta not present)

- IV. Delaney Belanger submitted a request to appear before the Board of Health to discuss using the Public Snow Alert for CSO notification. Miss Belanger and her parents Matt Belanger and Ashley Belanger discussed the importance of alerting the public of CSO occurrences. Ms. Vlasuk explained that CSO notifications can be found on the city web page and that permanent signs have been placed with QR codes linking individuals to the city page. In addition, Ms. Vlasuk stated individuals can subscribe for "e-subscriber notifications" that will send them an email when there is an active CSO. After some discussion it was decided that the Snow Alert was not the best form of notification and that may create confusion in reference to weather related issues. Dr. Tilman stated that

he would be happy to work with the family and the Harbor Master. Dr. Tilman asked the family to come up with some points and possible ideas and contact Ms. Vlasuk who would be happy to connect The Belanger's, Harbor Master and Dr. Tilman.

V. Review of BOH fees.

- a. Ms. Vlasuk asked if the Board of Health would review the fees for Yankee Homecoming. The Board of Health discussed that the fee was \$200 twenty years ago per vendor and that the cost must increase to meet the times. The correct fee for a 7-day event in the City of Newburyport would be \$450 per vendor if all paperwork was submitted with the Event Organizer Application. In July 2022 the Board of Health voted to reduce that fee to \$350 per vendor with the understanding that the event organizer would complete the Event Organizer Application Completely and submit all paperwork together. In an attempt to help Yankee, thrive, the Board of Health has chosen to reduce the fee even further. Dr. Tilson made a motion to reduce the cost of permit to \$250 per vendor under the condition that this will increase \$50 per year until \$350 is reached per vendor. In addition, the fee will be waived for all vendors that are licensed, permitted and inspected in the City of Newburyport. Both discounts are conditional pending that the Event Organizer application is completed and submitted with all vendor applications and fees attached. Failure to submit a complete packet and all documentation at least 10 days prior to the event to the Health Department my result in disqualification from participating in Yankee Homecoming. Lina Matta seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

VI. Directors Report 6/29/23

- *Increased social media presence*
- *We are in the middle of permit season, temporary event and yearly permit renewal*
- \$11,423.10 has been collected for reimbursement from last year's flu season
- Reminder, The Health Department did receive the maximum State allotment of COVID test kits, kits are available both at the entrance to town hall and at the Health Department office located in the lower level of City Hall. I encourage everyone to come take as many as they wish
- Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management will conduct helicopter application of biological larvicide between June 3 to June 10
- Health department is looking into offering a food drive. We would like to hold the food drive from both the Health Department, Senior Center and Mayor's office? We will deliver to local food pantries
- Vlasuk and Harris conducted 3 camp inspections
- Health department will be inspecting AED machines in city public buildings in June

VII. Next Meeting

July 20, 2023 at 7:03 pm in person

VIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made at 9:03pm by Dr. Tilson. seconded by Lina Matta. Motion passes 3-0.