

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
August 5, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Board members virtually present courtesy of a system organized by the City's IT Department: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Assistant Health Director: Max Schenk and Regional Prevention Director: Amy Epstein; and Health Inspector: Rachel Belisle-Toler

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Patti Page of 3 Tidal Cove Way appeared before the board. She gave board members an update on the State Mosquito Control Policy. She stated that they have to be proactive in their response in opting out of the mosquito spraying in the state controlled program in 2022. She stated that she would like to find out how the City is addressing the issue.

Mr. Schenk stated that he has been discussing the issue with Ms. Page. He stated that he would like Ms. Page to email him the new State requirements that she referenced.

The board agreed to add the issue to the September Board of Health agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting of July 1, 2021 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.** Mr. Cowan **abstained.**

MOTION by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the minutes of the Septic Review Subcommittee of the Board of Health meeting of June 28, 2021 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the minutes of the Septic Review Subcommittee of the Board of Health meeting of July 8, 2021 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Septic Review Subcommittee Report-

At its meeting on June 28, 2021 the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee reviewed a request to refute a previous Title 5 inspection report located at 24 Lawndale Circle (Map 199/ Lot 34) Property owned by Edward J. Abell III & Shilo Mcleod Trust C/O Kara & Scott Richardson

The Board allowed the property owner to re-inspect the system with the guidance of the Gloucester Health Department.

At its meeting on July 8, 2021 the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee discussed the City of Gloucester Subdivision Water Quality Regulations and reviewed variances for the following properties:

- 167 Atlantic Street Proposed Lot 1 (Map 254/ Lot 7)
Property owned by John A. Jarema and Alexander A. Bove Jr. Trust

All variances were withdrawn.

Board of Health Board Member Search Committee Updates-

Mr. Schenk stated that Mr. Harris and Mr. Rosa were nominated to be on the search committee for the new Board of Health member. He stated that their recommendations would be forwarded to the full board and then the final recommendation would be forwarded to the Mayor for appointment. The board discussed a viable candidate. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he will obtain the candidate's resume and forward it to board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Max Schenk, Assistant Health Director, as Interim Health Director-

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health appoint Max Schenk the Assistant Health Director to Interim Health Director effective immediately. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

Discussion and Creation of Health Director Interview and Selection Committee-

Mr. Schenk stated that the posting for the position has closed and ten applications were received. He stated that two board members need to be selected as the initial review process.

MOTION by Mr. Harris that the Gloucester Board of Health appoint Mr. Cowan, Mr. Rosa, and Ms. Schweitzer as members of the Health Director Interview and Selection Committee. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

The board agreed to have Mr. Schenk on the Health Director Interview and Selection Committee as well.

Discussion Regarding Status of the Gloucester Children's Dental Center -

Mr. Schenk stated that there have been many challenges during the pandemic with the Gloucester Children's Dental Center in terms of profits. He stated that the Dental Center committee discussed, pre-pandemic, the possibility of doing a mobile clinic, going directly to the schools rather than the children going to the clinic. He stated that the mobile model would have hygienist services only and referrals would be made out to a dentist that accepts Medicaid reimbursement if greater care is needed. He stated that they have the support from school administration for the proposed mobile model. He stated that they would pilot the program for 4-6 months and then evaluate the success of the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisit - Board of Health Vote of June 3 Re: Grant Contract Signature authority considering City Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article III, Division 2 Sec. 2-52, "Signing or Approval of Contracts, Deeds, etc." -

Mr. Schenk stated that at the June 3, 2021 Board of Health meeting the Board of Health voted to have the Chairperson of the Board of Health sign all contracts, deeds, etc. but the City Code of Ordinances is very explicit in stating that the Mayor is the authority singularly.

MOTION by Dr. Sagall that the Gloucester Board of Health rescind the vote of June 3, 2021 allowing the Board of Health Chairperson signatory authority for grants. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

COVID-19 Response Updates - *Mr. Schenk* stated that there are 14 active cases of COVID-19 in Gloucester. He stated that there were 29 cases total in July. He stated that there have been

no hospitalizations. He said that the majority of positive cases are individuals who are unvaccinated.

Mr. Schenk thanked Cindy Juncker and Bridget Nelligan as Interim Public Health Nurses. He stated that he has been having discussions with David Holden with the Gloucester Housing Authority to hold education and outreach events. He stated that they are also discussing flu clinics which will start in October.

Mr. Cowan asked where the State was with distributing vaccines to physician offices. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he will look into that.

Mr. Rosa stated that evictions are still protected through October of 2021.

Ms. Schweitzer asked how contact tracing is done. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the State was handling the contact tracing but they are slow, so they are maintaining it locally. He stated that if they need to expand contact tracing they will try to reconvene the team that was previously in place.

Mr. Cowan asked if they still had wastewater testing occurring. *Mr. Schenk* responded that they have testing by Biobot through late August which is being funded through a program sponsored by HHS.

Mr. Schenk stated that vaccines are available at CVS and Walgreens in Gloucester.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND OTHER DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Health Department Positions- *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Public Health Nurse position has been posted. He stated that they have hired a mental health navigator for the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative. He stated that they are in a holding pattern with Human Resources on the hiring process.

Ms. Epstein stated that they had a Regional Shared Services grant which had directed individuals with mental health issues to a navigator who assists in finding services for individuals. She stated that the program ended but they are hoping to revamp it and continue with the program. She stated that she applied for the Shared Health and Service grant which would be a collaboration between seven communities and secured enough funds to hire a full time person for the navigator position. She gave a summary of the program. The board agreed that the timeliness of filling the position is important and to draft a letter to the Personnel Director to urge the process along.

Creek at Good Harbor Beach- *Ms. Belisle-Toler* stated that the Health Department has been continuing to have an issue with contamination at the Creek at Good Harbor Beach. She stated that the Creek has been closed and there is a sign posted for no swimming there. She stated

that they have been trying to figure out where the bacteria is coming from and they are working with DPW to correct the problem.

Mr. Cowan asked if there was construction in the area using porta-potties. *Ms. Belisle-Toler* responded that she did not know but would look into that.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

After Action Report- *Mr. Cowan* asked why the COVID Response Team / Task Force After Report / Improvement Plan was not a public document. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he did not know, but it is a public record so the public can request to view it.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/S/ Bobbi Orlando_____

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

_____/S/ Richard Sagall_____

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

August 5, 2021 Board of Health Agenda
Minutes of the July s, 2021 BOH Meeting
Health Department August Monthly Report