



TOWN OF CHARLTON
37 MAIN STREET
CHARLTON, MA. 01507
508-248-2210

BOARD OF HEALTH

February 1, 2022

Members Present:

Jon Sanborn, Chair

Matt Gagner, Vice Chair

Pete Lancette, Member

Others Present:

James Philbrook, Health Director

Gary Magnuson-CMG Environmental

- Chair, Jon Sanborn, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Vice Chair, Matt Gagner made a motion to accept the January 4, 2022 minutes. Member, Peter Lancette second, all in favor.
- First item on the agenda was Cemetery and Gould Road. Gary Magnuson was in attendance. He did not have any new information for this topic at this time. James Philbrook, Health Director confirmed that there was no new information. Jon doesn't want to lose sight of this issue and believes it needs to be discussed a bit more. Peter wondered how you would determine who would be on the list for well testing. Matt wonders if we would even be able to secure funding from the town for this. Matt suggested we ask residents who may be interested in getting tested. We may be able to fund a few houses, but if there were too many people interested it may have to be determined how to be fair in who would be tested. There may be able to do a rotation of some houses each year. The possibility of a group discount was also discussed at last meeting. First order should be to contact residents to find out interest in testing. Gary will make a suggestion of which houses are of concern. We would have to seek funding before making any promises. Jim will draft a letter.
- Next was well contamination on Flint Road and Old Town Road. Things have stayed very stable and no detections are over the limit at this time. Because there were detections at the landfill, the DEP mandates a minimum of four quarters of testing in these homes within 500 feet and we are in the four quarters of data collection right now. Good news.
- 54 Flint Rd. Landfill closure was next on the agenda. We are waiting for clear written direction from the Mass DEP. We have gotten verbal approval and told we should begin moving forward with the landfill closure. Gary Magnuson had given the Board proposals for funding for this the past couple of budget periods and both were approved, and this money has not been spent. Jim informed the Board that Andrew Golas, Town

Administrator had gotten a call from one of the state senators that we were getting a grant for \$150,000 towards closing the landfill. More good news. First thing that has to be done is a Survey of the landfill. Matt made a proposal to accept the low bid from Levesque in the amount of \$9430 for the 54 Flint Road landfill survey. Peter seconded the motion and all in favor. Matt made a motion to approve the funding of the wetland delineation up to \$2500.00 for 54 Flint Rd. landfill. Peter second and all in favor.

- 90 Flint Road landfill mowing was next on the agenda. Matt proposes that we do a spring and fall mowing for 2022. We would have to reach out to Mr. Burlingame that has the current contract and ask what he would charge for an extra mowing.
- Jim did the update on Covid and Vaccine updates. We were down to 80 cases in Charlton last week. Keep in mind that many people are using home tests, which are not getting reported. We continue to urge people to get vaccinated.
- Next was the decision on extending the mask mandate in Charlton municipal buildings. Matt is more for people choosing if they want to wear a mask. Peter would encourage people to wear masks but doesn't agree with the mandates as well. Jim would also wear his shopping etc. but he would recommend that we change the mandate to a recommendation. Jon stated that from what he has seen the number of Covid-19 cases is coming down and that people can make the choice for themselves when they enter the Town Hall. Matt made a motion to release the mask mandate for the municipal buildings. Peter second and all in favor. This will be effective immediately.
- PFAS testing has come to our attention lately. It is relatively new to test for this "forever chemical" and there are concerns across the United States and Massachusetts that it is in drinking water. The DEP will be making a presentation about the testing program for PFAS at the Selectmen's meeting a week from today. Jim doesn't think that our Board should recommend any residents for this testing since if they do find anyone that has a contamination level over the limit, they will be forced to put in a filtration system at the homeowner's expense. UMass is going to do this study. Residents should have their eyes wide open to what the cost would be if they did have more than 20 parts per trillion of PFAS in their wells. He is not disapproving the DEP going forward with this as long as they very specifically lay out the estimated costs and provide all the data that they have about the harmful affects of this chemical in your water. Also details about what you can do to mitigate it. Matt can't remember a time when we reached out about testing and that we did not have a means of them paying for it. He is not sure he can support this. He would like people to be aware of this contaminant but doesn't want to make anyone have a financial burden. Gary recommends that everyone review the Frequently Asked Questions about the MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program which is attached. Gary gave a brief explanation of the program and how it works.
- Aspen Blue is opening a new marijuana facility on route 20. It is currently under construction. Jim gave a brief overview of the day to day operations of the office at this time.
- Matt had a phone call that the Recycling Committee may have gone before the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of a single trash hauler for the Town of Charlton. He would think that would be a Board of Health decision. He was not at the meeting, so he is not sure if it did happen. He would like to talk to them to see what they are up to. Jim did

have a conversation with Andrew Golas and he believes that this is too big of an issue for a small sub committee and that the Board of Health should be dealing with this. Jim can do some research. It was determined that the Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee should be communicating more with Jim so that he can keep the Board informed.

- The next meeting will be scheduled for March 1st, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
- Matt made a motion to adjourn, Peter seconded, all in favor at 7:09 p.m.



**Peter J
Lancette**

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Peter J Lancette
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