

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020
GOTOMEETING Conference Call / IN-PERSON
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cervone, Chairman, called the meeting of the Harding Township Board of Health to order on August 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., and announced the meeting was called in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:

Secretary Sharp called the following Board of Health members in attendance.

BOH Attendance: Dr. Cervone (via GoToMeeting), Mr. Boyan (via GoToMeeting), Dr. Kao, Dr. Lacz (via GoToMeeting), Mrs. Christina McKittrick, and Mr. Platt (via GoToMeeting)

Absent: Mrs. DiTosto

Health Department Attendance: Mrs. Lisa Sharp and Mr. George Byrnes

Morris Country Public Health Attendance: Miss Casey Brady

BOH Counsel: Mr. Joseph Sordillo, Board of Health Attorney, (via GoToMeeting)

Members of the Public: Mr. Steve Parker, Engineer, Parker Engineering (via GoToMeeting)
Mr. Chris Allen, resident (via GoToMeeting)
Mr. Bob Edgar, resident (via GoToMeeting)

BOH WAIVER REQUEST – KUHN RESIDENCE, 15 LAKE TRAIL WEST, BLOCK 38, LOT 3:

Dr. Cervone asked who would be presenting the waiver application. Mr. Steve Parke of Parker Engineering responded he would be. Mr. Sordillo, BOH Attorney proceeded with the swearing in of Mr. Parker.

Mr. Parker explained this is an application for a septic system alteration at 15 Lake Trail West which is in the Lakeshore community. This application is due to a home sale transaction. A septic inspection was performed and determined the septic system is no longer functioning. Mr. Parker reported the system is very old and reached the end of its life. Soil testing was conducted to determine a suitable location for the septic system for the property. This is a small lot; 75 feet wide by 220 feet deep. The house is located towards the central part of the property but there is very little room available for placement of the septic system. The waivers that are being requested this evening are setback waivers. Harding Township requires a 25 foot setback from a property line to a disposal field. What is being requested is a setback of 11 feet. The State health code allows a 10 foot setback. The applicant is in excess of the State code but cannot meet the Harding Township requirement. The soil conditions in the front are not that good but the soils in the back of the property are even worse. There is only one place where the system can be placed. The system was designed to include an ecco flow advance treatment unit. The septic bed was designed as small as possible by pressure dosing the system and using the advance treatment unit. This allows us to reduce the footprint of the system. Mr. Parker asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Cervone asked what the second waiver was. Mr. Parker explained the waivers are the setback to the property line; one for each side.

Mrs. McKittrick commented that it would have been helpful to have a table that included the septic waivers and the actual distances proposed. Looking at the figure, the 10 feet is shown, but the actual proposed distance is not shown. Mrs. McKittrick explained when looking at the left, it looks like it would be much closer to that 25 foot limit and on the right it is closer to 12 feet. Precise numbers would be helpful. Mr. Parker explained the waivers being requested are: 1) on the left hand side 22 feet and 2) on the right hand side it is 12 feet.

Mr. Boyan commented it is not clear why it is an alteration and not a new system. On a 75 foot lot, why could it not be turned 90 degrees counter clockwise and meet the 25 feet on both sides. Mr. Parker explained that it has to deal with the topography on the property. The grade on the property runs north south and there cannot be a lot of elevations across the long dimension of the field. There are restrictions in the State code on how far out of the ground, what is called the level of infiltration, which is the bottom of the stone a system can be. The septic field has to follow the contour lines. Mr. Parker reported that an alteration is any application where there is an existing home on the property. If there is an existing home with an existing septic system, it is called an alteration. Mr. Byrnes explained that the only time you have a new septic system is when there is a new construction of a house. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. McKittrick commented that the adjoining properties do not have wells, is that correct. Mr. Byrnes responded that is correct. Mrs. McKittrick commented if the location of the septic systems on the neighboring yards are. Mr. Parker responded yes they are show on the plans. Mrs. McKittrick commented that it still meets the 50 foot separation. Mr. Parker commented yes.

Mr. Boyan asked if there were any comments received from the neighbors; i.e., Mr. Allyn who mentioned this at the July Board meeting. Mr. Allyn, resident, commented he has no specific comments or questions. Mr. Byrnes reported that their comment was regarding the access on how to get to this property, the engineer will need to go through the lake owned property behind it. They will come off of Primrose instead of Lake Trail West.

Dr. Cervone commented that this is one waiver request for two different setbacks. Dr. Cervone asked if there were any further questions or comments. Dr. Cervone asked for a motion to approve the waiver request. Upon a motion made by Mr. Boyan, seconded by Mrs. McKittrick, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, none opposed, the waiver request for two different setbacks was approved.

Let the record show that Mr. Parker left the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF BOH MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2020:

Dr. Cervone asked if there were any questions with regard to the July 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mrs. McKittrick, seconded by Mr. Boyan, Dr. Cervone abstained, and with votes of all ayes, none opposed, the minutes for the July 9, 2020 meeting were accepted.

ACCEPTANCE OF BOH MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2020:

Dr. Cervone asked if there were any questions regarding the monthly Health Department report for July 2020. Mrs. McKittrick commented if the item for the Citigroup Mortgage on page one, is that a property transfer or sale. Mr. Byrnes commented that this is a sale. The property just sold and the new owners are looking to put in a new septic system. The current system has failed and no one has lived in the house for years. This property is wet and in the flood plain.

Dr. Cervone asked Mrs. Sharp to provide an update to the influenza clinic. Mrs. Sharp reported that at the July meeting it was mentioned that the VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) will not be conducting the clinics this year. Mrs. Sharp received an email from Dr. Perez, Jr., Health Officer, which was placed in the monthly report for the Board to see. Dr. Perez, Jr., would like to hear from the Board on what the Board's recommendations are due to the current state of COVID-19 as to should the clinics continue. Dr. Perez, Jr. reported that FastER in Morris Township would be the provider for Harding's clinics and provided a quote of \$35.00 per person where the VNA charged \$30.00 for someone who just came to the clinic.

Mrs. McKittrick commented what was the utilization of the flu clinics last year as 2019 was one of the first years where the vaccine was readily available at CVS, and other public venues. The flu shots are much more accessible at these different locations than making an appointment and going to see your doctor. Mrs. McKittrick is wondering about the demand and the overall interest in coming to this location. Mrs. Sharp explained that the attendees at the flu clinics have been steadily declining due to the flu shots being readily available. Mrs. Sharp explained last year was light but probably a total of 48+ attendees.

Dr. Cervone commented that he has two concerns; 1) the Township does not have the high dose and for the seniors that do come in, they will not receive the high dose and this would be substandard for them. And 2) we make available the flu shots for the first responders. Dr. Cervone is happy to volunteer his time to participate in the clinic. Dr. Cervone believes it would send the wrong message, being in a pandemic, that the Township does not offer the flu clinics.

Mr. Allyn, resident – commented that it is very important that the public be made aware of the importance of the flu vaccination in light of the pandemic. Having both at the same time is a really bad situation. If the flu clinics will not be offered directly, it should be publicized the need for the seniors to make sure they are vaccinated however they do it. Dr. Cervone commented that is a very important point. This year is a very important year to receive the vaccine. Co-infection of both can be lethal to anyone. Dr. Cervone commented that an announcement in the Thumbnail should be made. Mrs. Sharp will submit information to the Observer Tribune and to the Thumbnail and announcing that the seniors should be seeking the high dose for the vaccine. A discussion ensued. Mrs. McKittrick commented should the flu clinics have pre-registration so traffic can be controlled, etc. Dr. Cervone agreed with Mrs. McKittrick. Mrs. Sharp will contact Dr. Perez, Jr., and informed him that the Board would like to continue the flu clinics and will discuss the logistics of the clinics.

Dr. Cervone asked for a motion to accept the July monthly Health Department report. A motion was made by Mrs. McKittrick seconded by Dr. Lacz, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the monthly Health Department report for July was accepted.

ACCEPTANCE OF MORRIS COUNTY MONTHLY REPORTS FOR JULY 2020:

Dr. Cervone asked if there were any comments or questions with regard to the Morris County Monthly Report for July 2020.

Miss Brady informed the Board that the Public Health Nurses are still investigating COVID-19 cases and the health educator is actively working on the billboards for the COVID-19 prevention campaign. Dr. Kao asked how the numbers for Morris County has been. Mrs. Sharp reported for the month of July there was one reported.

With no further comments a motion was made by Mrs. McKittrick, seconded by Dr. Lacz to accept the July Morris County Monthly report. With a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the Morris County monthly report for July 2020 was accepted.

OTHER MATTERS AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

2021 Health Department Expense Budget

Mrs. Sharp reported that the 2021 Health Department expense budget is the same as presented in 2020. Due to the pandemic, all departments were asked to watch unnecessary spending, so minimal expenses have been appropriated. The only line item difference for 2020, is there is a line item for all pandemic expenses. Mrs. McKittrick commented about the line item expense on the proposed budget for animal control, is this contingent upon the discussion of the animal control contract? Mrs. Sharp responded no. This line item expense is for the dog licenses, rabies analyses, rabies clinic, etc. The animal control contract is paid directly from the dog licenses which comes out of the animal control trust account. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Cervone asked for a motion to accept the 2021 Health Department Expense Budget. Upon a motion made by Mrs. McKittrick, seconded by Dr. Kao, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, none opposed, the 2021 Health Department Expense budget was approved.

Animal Control Contract

Mrs. Sharp explained that the animal control contract is up at the end of 2020. Mrs. Sharp asked for two quotes; one from Animal Control Solutions which is the Township's current provider and the second from the Township of Randolph. Dr. Perez, Jr., provided me the contact information for the Township of Randolph. Animal Control Solutions responded with a one year and three year quote. Mrs. Sharp has not received a quote from the Township of Randolph as of tonight's meeting. A discussion ensued. The recommendation of the Board was to table the animal control contract discussion for the September Board meeting.

Rabies Clinic

Mrs. McKittrick commented if there was a plan for the rabies clinic this year. Mrs. Sharp explained that the rabies clinic will be November 7, 2020 from 9 to 11 am at the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, and that the Health Officer of Morris Township and myself have been in contact with Dr. Matalon. Logistics of the clinic are still being discussed. A question was asked if the rabies clinic could have pre-registration. Mr. Byrnes explained this is difficult as the clinic is open to all Municipalities. A question was asked why the Township would be conducting a rabies clinic for anyone in the State. Mr. Byrnes explained that all the rabies clinics are administrated by the Townships but are funded and supported by the State.

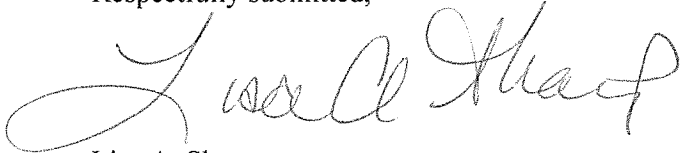
Hearing Persons Present

Mr. Allyn, resident – commented that there was a report this past Monday of a rabid raccoon from the Lake to the Police. The Police responded but did not locate the raccoon. Mr. Allyn commented on the conduct of the Board of Health meeting. Mr. Allyn explained that he attends many of these calls and finds this one to be extremely well handled and the technology around the meeting is working very well, it is understandable, very clear, and the Board is to be congratulated for this. Dr. Cervone thanked Mr. Allyn for his comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Dr. Kao, seconded by Mrs. DiTosto, and with a vote of all ayes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa A. Sharp". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Board of Health