

Town of Maynard

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2021 – Meeting via Zoom

The Maynard Board of Health (BOH) held their scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 virtually via zoom. Kathy McMillan, Chair, Lisa Thuot, Vice Chair, Jodi Larkin, Member, and Kelly Pawluczzonek, Health Agent, were present. A roll call vote was completed. Also in attendance were Justine St. John, Select Board, and Jeff Swanberg, Select Board, and Justin DeMarco, Public Works Director.

I. Call Board of Health Meeting to Order

A motion was made by K. McMillan to open the Board of Health Meeting at 6:33pm, which was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously via a roll call vote. K. McMillan read the Governor's message regarding virtual/remote Town meetings. To the BOH's knowledge, no participant was recording the meeting.

II. COVID-19 Update

As of the meeting there were zero reported cases of COVID-19 in Maynard. Five additional J&J vaccine doses were administered, and there were about 20 doses leftover. K. Pawluczzonek was trying to find recipients for the remaining J&J vaccines; no nearby towns need any.

III. PFAS and EEE Overview

The state's emergency mosquito spraying is done by East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP). In April, targeted spraying with larvicide (using Bti) was done by the EMMCP on mosquito breeding areas on Rockland Ave. and Old Marlboro Rd.

There was not enough time for towns to investigate whether to opt-out of the aerial spraying. Maynard and surrounding towns including Sudbury, Acton, Carlisle, and Wayland did not opt out. The aerial spraying decision was not taken lightly; a state epidemiologist advised local health agents on a conference call that EEE can leave victims with permanent neurological damage. EEE appears in a 3-year cycle, so this year could be bad. Aerial spraying targets adult mosquitoes using Anvil 10+10, applied from aircraft; this is used for emergency spraying in critical high-risk areas, especially southeast MA. Mosquitoes are being tested for both West Nile virus and EEE. J. DeMarco also discussed the use of integrated pest management (IPM) to target specific mosquito-prone areas. K. Pawluczzonek was going to attend a training on future opt-out process for cities and towns.

J. DeMarco discussed PFAS compounds and how prevalent they are in so many products in our society. There is a recent concern that the packaging of some aerial pesticides contains PFAS that can leach into the pesticide, and be distributed during aerial spraying.

PFAS has been identified as a potential carcinogen for long term exposure. In October 2020, the state has implemented a PFAS drinking water limit of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for public water supplies in Massachusetts; (originally this level was to 40 ppt, but was changed to 20). Most MA towns and cities were in compliance with PFAS levels before the new DEP limit was implemented. The nearby towns of

Acton and Wayland have had periodic PFAS results exceeding the new DEP limit. Maynard participated in a PFAS drinking water testing program with the State through the UMass Extension system. Recent PFAS test results from Maynard supply wells/treatment plants have averages in the range of 2 – 13 ppt. Maynard has taken a proactive approach in the event that future drinking water exceedances are encountered. A new sample tracking spreadsheet has been created to track PFAS results, identify trends. J. DeMarco explained that a response plan is needed for exceedances of 20 PPT, (i.e. providing bottled water, distributing drinking water through tanker truck, etc.) Other drinking water issues that Maynard has experienced include capacity issues, and exceedances of total trihalomethanes (TTHM), a byproduct of chlorination. Organics in drinking water can trap PFAS. Phase I of Maynard’s water plan includes new supply well #4A at treatment plan #4; borrowing to be approved at the Town meeting. This Town drinking water budget does not account for PFAS treatment. PFAS treatment can be very costly, and includes technologies such as granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment. The town of Hudson is reportedly using GAC treatment at one location, and Wayland is considering filtration treatment. At home PFAS treatment options for PFAS include reverse osmosis or GAC systems designed for residential use. A standard faucet attachment or pitcher water filter typically does not have enough carbon to remove PFAS from drinking water.

White’s Pond in Maynard has been identified as a possible future water source for Maynard, however there is a concern that the groundwater source to the pond could be impacted by former industrial activities. Currently groundwater is not being pumped from White’s Pond to Maynard’s public water supply system. J. DeMarco has prepared a memo to the Select Board on this PFAS issue. L. Thuot explained that the EPA does not have a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS at drinking water at this time, and that there is an EPA health advisory level of 70 ppt.

Public outreach and education about PFAS and mosquito issues was discussed, including residential issues such as unmaintained swimming pools, debris on private properties, etc. which can breed mosquito populations. J. DeMarco noted that the Maynard DPW website has links to PFAS information under the water and sewer tab/section, which was designed to be direct and simple for residents to understand.

IV. Approve meeting minutes of previous meeting

K. McMillan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4/27/21 and 5/25/21, (with a change of wording error from “Executive Session” to “Board of Health Meeting” on 5/25/21, as there was no executive session on this date). J. Larkin seconded the motion. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote.

V. Other Business (not previously anticipated):

The BOH has received no update from Town Council regarding the Railroad Street litigation. Last week, K. Pawluczzonek contacted a tenant at Railroad Street last who wrote a letter requesting a housing inspection, but the tenant did not respond back to Ms. Pawluczzonek.

K. Pawluczzonek is resigning from the Board of Health after 9 years of dedicated service, as she has accepted a Health Agent job in another town. She said M. Zammuto is seeking to hire a new Maynard Health Agent with more hours than the current position.

J. Larkin asked about severely overgrown vegetation at 54 Old Marlboro Road. K. Pawluczzonek said the Town Council is trying to determine if this issue can be cited under nuisance regulations.

VI. Adjournment

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for Tues., July 27, 2021 at 6:30pm. K. McMillan made a motion to adjourn the BOH meeting at 7:56pm. The motion was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote.

Signatures:

Kathy McMillan

Kathy McMillan, Chair

Lisa Thuot

Lisa Thuot, Vice Chair

Jodi Larkin

Jodi Larkin, Member