



Town of Provincetown
Joint Meeting of the
BOARD OF HEALTH
and the Water & Sewer Board
Thursday, June 6, 2019
Veterans Memorial Community Center
Room 89
2 Mayflower Street, Provincetown, MA

Board Members Present: Mark Phillips, Chair; Steve Katsurinis, Vice Chair (arrived at 1:03 p.m.); Dr. Janet Whelan (arrived at 1:02 p.m.); Dr. Elise Cozzi; Kalliope Chute; and Susan Troyan, Alternate.

Board Members Absent: Irv Morgan, Alternate

Other attendees: Water & Sewer Board members Jonathan Sinaiko, Chair; Robert O'Malley, Vice Chair; Peter Graham, Gary Palmer, Steven Baker; Morgan Clark, (arrived at 1:02 p.m.) Health Director; and Lezli Rowell, Health Agent

Call to Order: Mr. Sinaiko called the Water & Sewer Board to order at 1:00 p.m., Mark Phillips called the Board of Health to order at 1:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the Board of Health in attendance, after which Mr. O'Malley did the same with his board.

I. Joint Meeting with the Board of Health and the Water & Sewer Board:

a. Update and discussion on the rental tax wastewater fund with Provincetown's representative Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Josee Cardinal Young

Discussion: Ms. Young noted there had been one meeting and that board organization was the main focus and reported that the wastewater fund's processes and bylaws have not yet been established.

Ms. Clark and Dr. Whelan arrived at 1:02 p.m. and Mr. Katsurinis arrived at 1:03 p.m.

Further discussion covered areas of concern such as water treatment, storm water and determining how that affects water quality in the bay, using any funds available for ensuring clean water, and extending the sewer. Ms. Young noted she would be happy to send updates to the two boards after every meeting.

b. Update on measures the BOH has taken to protect the sewer system and whether those measures have had any effects

Discussion: Ms. Clark updated the boards on BOH actions since the grease summit including updates from sewer engineers, the requirement of at least one attendee from each restaurant at a FOG course, and additional regulations to deal with grease such as requiring at least one pumping of external grease traps between July 1 and August 31. Further discussion included inspections of older

infrastructure, looking forward to data to determine the effectiveness of measures taken, expanding education, working with other municipalities, updating codes and outdated equipment, grease trap specifications such as requiring baffles, and investigating ways to reduce nocardia.

Richard Waldo, Director of the Department of Public Works noted that some other municipalities have instituted regulations that restaurants of 100 seats or more, at a change of ownership, be required to upgrade their grease trap system. Further discussion covered increased grease inspection reports, developing thresholds for upgrade and a suggestion to minimize granting variances allowing restaurants to reduce from two pumpings a year. Ms. Clark noted the lack of immediate feedback, such as occurs with on-site septic, where grease trap devices lead from home or restaurant to the sewer, has allowed outdated equipment to remain in use.

c. Updates from DPW on capacity and plans for lifting the State of Limited Capacity

Discussion: Mr. Waldo noted that current regulations state that when available capacity is less than 25% of the total capacity, we are in state of limited capacity; therefore, even with additional gallons we would only have 15%. Mr. Waldo reported that when available, gallons would be put in to a 5th category of voluntary connections. Further discussion covered giving boards more information to allow for increased ability to manage their allotted gallons.

i. What happens to the Town Meeting approved funds

Discussion: Mr. Waldo reported that in October, the Town applied to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for grant loan application consisting of \$4 million in loans and \$2 million in grants for wastewater treatment, pump stations and miscellaneous work. Mr. Waldo further reported that the regional office has received less funding than in the past but that there may be more funding available in August. The money allocated at Town Meeting is waiting and if the funds are not forthcoming from the USDA, there are some potential avenues for loan-type funding sources.

Mr. Katsurinis left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

d. Plans for addressing aging infrastructure like the restaurants external grease traps

Discussion: Ms. Clark discussed methods for collecting data and expects to use data in a report this fall, suggested meeting again after hearing from USDA to discuss options. Mr. Sinaiko recalled a previous suggestion from when the sewer was new, requiring systems pumped every three years for those not connected to the sewer. Ms. Clark stated she would look into it.

Further discussion covered grease traps in the road, and interest in data based on July and August pumpings. Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Chris Rowe stated that nocardia blooms have already started by July and August, and discussed the benefits of reducing FOG going to the plant. How to quantify the effect was discussed as well as optimal pumping times, the question of what other areas do, and the cost and options for collecting more data.

e. Possible shared outreach strategies for rentals and other potential contributors of grease

This item was discussed briefly in other agenda items.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fiorella

Approved by _____ on _____, 2019