

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting December 13, 2022

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Rob Lazo – Health Inspector, Kay Bell – COA Liaison, Jen Roberts – Select Board

4:00 PM Meeting is called to order.

Open Comments: None

Local Septic System Variance Requests:

58 Massasoit Rd. Request a variance for installation of septic on parcel that is close to wetlands. Current home is to be demolished and septic system is to be decommissioned. New septic will be situated in the front of the property away from the wetlands with a retaining wall surrounding it. Raising the grade of the property will mitigate issues with the wetland. Mr. Murphy recommends granting the variance.

VOTE: Sama motioned to grant a variance for retaining wall, as approved, located at 58 Massasoit Rd. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

565 Concord Rd.: Request two variances for the installation of a septic on a subdivided parcel where gradation is steep. The first variance would consist of allowing leaching trenches to be 6 feet apart as opposed to the regulation 12 feet apart. The 6 foot separation will minimize area of disturbance. The second variance consists of putting up a retaining wall. Mr. Murphy recommends granting the variances.

VOTE: Sama motioned to grant variances for 6 Foot distance between leaching trenches and for retaining wall, as approved, located at 565 Concord Rd. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Beth Porter Employee of the Year Acknowledgement:

Beth Porter was named 2022 Sudbury Employee of the year. Mr. Murphy acknowledged Beth's hard work ~~thru~~ throughout the pandemic.

Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: There has been a shift in ages for positives from 0 – 5 years of age. Preschools and daycares are adept at handling positives. Many have upgraded and maintain air filtration, clean high contact surfaces and have procedures in place to handle positives. The library held a mobile COVID Clinic on November 30th. Given the inclement weather, there was still a strong turnout. The mobile clinics are being used throughout the town in the public and private sectors.

FLU: There have been 58 reported cases of the flu. The flu vaccines that were administered this year are a good match for the strains of flu circulating. Patty will look into the efficacy of the vaccines.

General Illnesses: Patty is finding that most illnesses RSV, Flu, Strep, COVID, ear infections are causing multiple consecutive infections. Many of these illnesses occur at specific times of the year, however because COVID has taken up "viral space" the illness patterns have been altered.

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Bethany Hadvab: Social Worker Update:

General Well Being of Sudbury Residents: Inflation, health Issues, mental health Issues, food insecurity, housing insecurity are significant factors to residents reaching out for help and resources.

Resources: Bethany has seen a sharp decline in the availability of resources and funding. ARPA funds used to purchase and distribute gift cards are getting close to depletion.

Hope Sudbury: In 2021 fifty Hope Sudbury applications were processed. As of November 2022, over 100 applications were processed. ARPA Funds are supplementing hope sudbury contributions when the accounts start to get too low.

Sudbury Foundation: continues to be strong support for our department.

Grants: Bethany is applying for grants to increase the bottom line in the Sudbury Single Parents Fund. These funds are used for education, teaching budgeting skills, purchase and maintenance of cars, office supplies, etc.

Bill Murphy: Health Director Update:

Health Budget: Mosquito Control is level funded and the Animal Control figures represent the new contract. Hazardous Waste Collection Day is level funded but challenging trying to secure a date for 2023. Expense budgets seem appropriate. Increases in other budgets for salary step increases, maintenance for two cars, and Social Worker education and training.

Septic Permits: Bill is unsure of the number of permits processed this year but since the inception of COVID the Health Department has ~~been support-processed a~~ significant increases in permits. A definitive number will be known at the end of the calendar year. Because Sudbury still has a large number of antiquated septic systems, he believes that it will again be a busy 2023 for permitting and inspections.

Food Inspections: Food establishments will be the focus in the winter, once septic permitting and septic inspections slow down.

Food Establishment Permits 2023: There have been up to sixty permits already processed. Applications continue to come into the office.

Record Requests and Well Research: Health Department record requests continue since the inception of COVID. Again, it is projected that 2023 will be no exception in large numbers.

Public Health Excellence Grant: The grant has presented challenges. Position of Health Communications Specialist needs to be filled. Grant nurses have been organizing mobile vaccine clinics.

Health Director Resignation and Hiring Process:

Bill Murphy announced that he will be leaving the position of Sudbury Health Director effective January 12th 2023. He thanked the Board for their support throughout his eight great years as Health Director by giving him the space to grow professionally. His biggest accomplishments would be fee schedule updating, tobacco control regulations, EEE, vaping crisis and the COVID pandemic. Not to mention, reprioritizing

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Health Director Resignation and Hiring Process Continued:

tasks based on town wide projects, like Broad Acres, Meadow Walk, Sewataro etc.... He thanked his Health team for their critical work and extraordinary efforts over his tenure. He thanked the Sudbury residents and vendors for their challenges, support and patience.

The Board in turn took this opportunity to thank Bill for his exceptional work. Carol Bradford thanked Bill for his guidance during normal periods and throughout EEE and the COVID pandemic. She also wished him the best in his new position. Susan Sama thanked Bill for his thoughtful and patient approach and for always following the science. Linda Huet-Clayton felt that his guidance thru the pandemic kept Sudbury on secure footing. The entire Board feels that Bill is irreplaceable. He will be sorely missed.

Jen Roberts (Select Board) stated that Bill's leaving constitutes a great loss for Sudbury and that he was a great partner to the Select Board. Bill was a great liason to many departments and Boards and many strong alliances have been formed over the years. He will be missed. Bill hopes that the new Health director will continue to work closely with interfacing Departments and Boards.

Bill will keep the Board informed of candidates for the Health Director's position.

VOTE: Carol Bradford Motioned to adjourn BoH Meeting. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

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