



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Town of Holden
Board of Health Meeting – Remote Meeting
September 14, 2021

Members Present - Mr. Michael Mazloff, Michelle O'Rourke

Others Present: Pamela Harding – Director Planning & Development, Denise Monteiro – Recording Secretary, Francis Dagle – Health Director, Amy McInerney – Public Health Coordinator, McKenzie Falker – Health Officer, Jayne Dye – Citizen's for Holden's Energy Future (CHEF), Denis Mahoney – Citizens for Holden's Energy Future (CHEF), Dr. Jennifer Lish – Citizens for Holden's Energy Future (CHEF)

Michael Mazloff called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company's (MMWEC) Construction of 60 MW natural gas and oil peaker power plant

- Jane Dye spoke on behalf of Citizens for Holden's Energy Future (CHEF). The group is requesting the Holden Board of Health to send a letter to the Governor's office requesting an Environmental Impact Report and Community Health Assessment as did the Peabody BOH. The group is concerned about Holden's participation as one of the 14 towns involved. They feel it is going to have a lot of impact on Holden residents.
- Pam Harding spoke to Barry Tupper of the Holden Municipal Light Department, he forwarded some information that was distributed to the Board.
- Denis Mahoney spoke on behalf of Citizens for Holden's Energy Future Technically the Environmental Impact Report is not required at this time, we would like to request this information.
- Jennifer Lish spoke on behalf of Citizens for Holden's Energy Future. There are health issue concerns for the residents of Holden. Fossil fuel plants will be used to generate electricity, is this the right thing right now? We need to reevaluate now on the environmental impact for 2021.
- Pam Harding shared the document from HMLD
- Michael Mazloff asked about the September 1st deadline for letter submittal, if we send now will it be considered?
- Jane Dye answered we can still file, it is an ongoing plan for the project.
- Denis Mahoney The contention is they did follow the process if the project was done in 2015, if they started it today we feel they would need to do an EIR.
- Michael Mazloff asked Michelle and Pam their thoughts on sending the letter
- Michelle O'Rourke agreed with all points
- Pam Harding stated she is not familiar enough to comment.
- Michael Mazloff asked what the time constraints are in getting the letter sent

- Denis Mahoney stated time is of the essence, September 1st has already gone by, and to wait another month might be too late. This is just a simple request to look at the project as if it was today and check the health part of it.
- Michael Mazloff stated he doesn't see anything in the letter from HMLD that would defer us from sending the letter
- Michelle O'Rourke agreed
- Michael Mazloff stated a letter of concern will be sent to the Governor's office to request an Environmental Impact Report and Community Health Assessment
- Denis Mahoney thanked the Board for their support

Approval of Meeting Minutes May 11, 2021 and August 3, 2021

- Tabled to October Meeting

Title V Inspections Completed – Shelley Hultgren

- 1348 Main Street – Passes
- 792 Princeton Street – Passes
- 57 Wood Street – Passes
- 506 Reservoir Street – Passes
- 635 Manning Street – Conditionally Passes
- 704 Princeton Street – Conditionally Passes
- 788 Wachusett Street – Passes
- 26 Bailey Road – Passes

Systems Being Installed – Shelley Hultgren

- 429 Reservoir Street
- 696 Mason Road
- 578 Wachusett Street
- 588 Wachusett Street

Systems Being Repaired – Shelley Hultgren

- 704 Princeton Street
- 635 Manning Street

Title V – Shelley Hultgren has been out in the field doing Title V inspections and reviewing plans, we are looking into hiring another person for Title V to help Shelley.

Health Agent Reports/Updates – Francis Dagle

Housing/Nuisance – None

Food Inspections – Francis Dagle

- 1 new establishment – Pholicious – Pre-Operational Inspection was approved.

Events – Vendors to be inspected

- Pro.found Market at Lilac Hedge Farm 9/25/2021 – 9/26/2021

New/Other Business

- Michael Mazloff asked for an update on the hiring of an agent
- Pam Harding stated that herself, Francis and the Assistant Town Managers interviewed a candidate Monday, they offered the position to the candidate and are waiting to hear back
- Francis Dagle stated the candidate will be housed in Holden if the position is accepted
- Michael Mazloff asked if there were any other changes in staff
- Francis Dagle answered he is talking to DPH about hiring for 2 more roles, Community Health Worker and Epidemiologist the positions will be shared with Leicester as Helen, the nurse is now. The Epidemiologist will be able to help Helen with contact tracing, particularly cluster cases.
- Pam Harding stated she spoke to the Recreation Director about the before and after school programs, it is up to the BOH as to what guidelines they should follow so they are looking for guidance
- Francis Dagle stated a meeting should be set up to get more specifics before making a decision
- Francis Dagle asked the Board about booster vaccines, Rutland is going to be offering them, should we plan our own or join Rutland again?
- Michael Mazloff stated that he volunteered in Rutland and they did a terrific job and were well set up for receiving vaccines
- Francis Dagle stated he would be happy to coordinate with Rutland

Covid cases and Testing in Schools

- Michael Mazloff stated that Holden is doing the Test and Stay Program and it seems to be running well and on track. The schools and staff are handling it impressively.

Next Meeting October 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM – Tentative scheduled date depending on Covid statistics, we may have to meet earlier.

Adjourned 6:32 pm