

BOARD OF HEALTH Emergency Meeting

Town of Nantucket
3 East Chestnut Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

www.nantucket-ma.gov



Commissioners: Stephen Visco (chair), Malcolm MacNab, MD, PHD (Vice chair) , James Cooper, Helene Weld, RN, Rita Higgins, Select Board

Staff: Roberto Santamaria, Artell Crowley, Kathy LaFavre, Anne Barrett, Hank Ross

~~ MINUTES ~~

Thursday, April 16, 2020

This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube,

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law

Called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Mr. Visco

Staff: R. Santamaria, Health Director
Attending Members: Stephen Visco, Chair; Malcolm MacNab, Vice chair; James Cooper; Helene Weld; Rita Higgins
Absent Members: Mr. Visco off-line 4:05 to 4:11 p.m.
Speakers: Gary Shaw, President & CEO Nantucket Cottage Hospital; Dawn Hill Holdgate, Select Board Chair

Agenda adopted by unanimous consent

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Item 1

III. COVID UPDATE

Santamaria – We're still in midst of the Governor's shelter-in-place order and going up on 12 days without new on-Island COVID19 cases. Our primary effort is to look at the health of the Island and make decisions based upon what we find; that doesn't make everyone happy. This is an unprecedented event, which was last experienced over 100 years ago. It is unfair these decisions fall on government leaders, but we have to make those decisions with what we have as quickly as we can; we are being asked to implement emergency orders on the fly.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – REGULATION 51

Motion to open the public hearing at 4:05. (Weld) (seconded)

Voice Vote Carried 4-0: Weld-aye; Cooper-aye; Higgins-aye; MacNab-aye; Visco- aye

Santamaria – This is a contentious regulation; since we can't have a hearing with public involvement, we're asking to table this for three months. It would be unfair to have a full hearing at this time

Motion to table to July 16 at 4:00 p.m. (Higgins) (seconded).

Voice Vote Carried 4-0: Weld-aye; Cooper-aye; Higgins-aye; MacNab-aye//Visco lost internet connection

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. January 16, 2020
2. February 20, 2020
3. March 17, 2020
4. March 20, 2020
5. April 2, 2020

Action **Motion to Approve all the minutes.** (made by: Higgins) (seconded)

Voice Vote Carried 4-0: Weld-aye; Cooper-aye; Higgins-aye; MacNab-aye//Visco lost internet connection

VI. BOH BUSINESS

1. Loan for 53 Millbrook Road, 56-239, Gianutsos, septic repair
 2. Loan for 266 Madaket Road, Millar, 59.4-273, septic repair
 3. Loan for 30 Dukes Road, Webb, 56-189, septic to sewer
- Sitting MacNab (acting chair), Cooper, Weld, Higgins
Discussion **Santamaria** – Asked these to be reviewed together; there are no objections
Action **Motion to Approve all three loan requests.** (made by: Cooper) (seconded)
Voice Vote Carried 4-0: Weld-aye; Cooper-aye; Higgins-aye; MacNab-aye//Visco lost internet connection
4. Variance request 113 Hummock Pond Road, 56-59, setbacks 50.02A, 502.05B, 64.03B (**Tabled until May 21, 2020**)
 5. Variance request for 287 Hummock Pond Road, 83-39, setbacks 52.02A & 64.04 C.2 (**Tabled until May 21, 2020**)
 6. Variance request for 65 Squam Road, 13-15, 52.02A setbacks (**Tabled until May 21, 2020**)
 7. Variance Request for Madequecham Valley Road, 88-25, 310CMR 15.214(2) bedroom allowance (**Tabled until May 21, 2020**)
8. Genetic Mice Project Steering Committee appointment
- Sitting MacNab (acting chair), Cooper, Weld, Higgins
Discussion **Santamaria** – A person stepped down from the committee; we are recruiting Ginger Andrews.
MacNab – Reviewed Ms. Andrew’s qualifications.
Action **Motion to Appoint Ginger Andrews to the Genetic Mice Project Steering Committee.** (made by: Weld) (seconded)
Voice Vote Carried 4-0: Weld-aye; Cooper-aye; Higgins-aye; MacNab-aye//Visco lost internet connection
 9. Phased Work Plans

Sitting Visco, MacNab, Cooper, Weld, Higgins
Discussion **Santamaria** – The plans were presented at the Select Board meeting; there will be a joint BOH and Select Board meeting on Friday, April 17 at 1 p.m. to discuss a phased back-to-work plan. We will also discuss an order that all Stop & Shop workers are required to wear masks.
MacNab – Swimming pools haven’t been discussed. Asked if we need those.
Santamaria – We’ve addressed maintenance of swimming pools. We’re not opening them yet, but we’re headed into the season that if filters aren’t on, we get algae blooms which attracts mosquitos. Some of the pool maintenance work can be done by 1 or 2 people.
MacNab – Asked what the recommended start time for the phased work plans would be.
Santamaria – The Governor’s order expires on May 4; it’s up to BOH to set the implementation dates for this order.
Shaw – He wants the Board to feel confident about the tools in place for screening and quarantine. We have 26 people trained to monitor quarantined people. We have no COVID patients in the hospital. We have to figure out how to navigate coming up to normal.
Weld – Given the amount of paperwork to generate additional data, suggested April 27 as the implementation date for the phased back-to-work plan.
Santamaria – We can work with that date. If you want any changes to the Order, April 27 start date allows time for that to be done. Town Counsel is working to finalize the document. The Board would need to vote to implement, table, augment, change, etc. It is a living document at this time.
Cooper – Asked if the Board is going work it out today or on April 17th with the Select Board. The Police Chief said the Governor said no empty structures will have water turned on; the water should be turned on prior to a family’s return; the same with any electrical issues.
Shaw – Something to keep in mind is that the Select Board and BOH supported extremely fast the request to take measures to slow the spread of COVID because of the unique situation of the Island. Now we are ahead of the State mandate and this is another opportunity to be ahead of the State. Asked if there is an option for the BOH to go ahead and allow water to be turned on to avoid another public health issue.

Hill Holdgate – We settled on a definition of unoccupied that doesn't include a finished house with furniture from which the owner has been absent; caretaking and property management are okay. If you want to consider independent and one-worker jobs, you can include that.

Visco – We got this plan a little while ago and it's a lot to go over. Most year-rounders are self-employed and encompass more than the landscaping companies. He thinks the wording is a little discriminatory.

Higgins – It seems like turning on the water is an issue; it's safer to work in an unoccupied house. We'll have to look at what will happen when people start coming back to the Island. It's hard to differentiate between 1-month or 6-month occupancy. Speaking to the landscaping side, we need to ferret out a safe way for them to start work. Also, if water is running on a property, workers have a place to wash their hands. Regarding 1-person per construction work site, she'd like to discuss and close possible loopholes.

Shaw – The approach with the lowest risk is one such as Mr. Visco and Ms. Higgins mentioned and allows people to get back to work while we can monitor the situation.

Visco – He'd like to read this over and discuss it at the Friday April 17 meeting.

Hill Holdgate – Asked the BOH members try to get comments to Mr. Santamaria as soon as possible so that any changes can be reviewed before the April 17th meeting.

Higgins – She wants to hear what other BOH members have to say. One thing that came up is considering what can be done safely regarding going back to work. It's a judgement call about what is too strict and what isn't strict enough. There is a divide among the business owners about getting back to work with some wanting to open with as many employees as possible. Asked if there is the possibility to have an employee hotline; there is a fear among people that they will be forced to go back to work or risk losing their job; they should have a safe venue to express concerns their employers might not be acting in the best interest of safety.

Visco – No one wants to be ill or sick; from what he sees and hears, people will do what they need to do to keep their employees and families safe.

Shaw – Suggested that as the Town loosens the breaks, we should develop a fact sheet explaining expectations and what is safe. People will ask and we need to get word out efficiently.

Weld – Mitigation has been successful; as more people come on the island, we'll see more positive cases. Asked if Mr. Shaw is looking at a potential trend leading to another full shutdown.

Shaw – We're trying to get to the best minds in the country to help us understand the new normal and ascertain what's the right thing to do. There is more disease on the mainland than here; a good number of people coming over will have been ill and recovered; however, we want to be able to identify if someone who is not feeling well is positive or where someone sits in the disease. We need screening testing to quarantine if necessary to contact tracing while we do a simultaneous test of everybody on the Island. Today at 5 p.m. we will be talking with representatives of the Rowe Institute and MIT and Mass General and a scientist and epidemiologist about defining a study that would lead to doing a dry-blood-blot test and to initiate it through MIT. That information would help us understand the Island's health now. In the meantime, let the breaks off in the lowest-risk way; we have to test this.

MacNab – The original Q testing provided a lot of false negatives; there are now new tests being developed. Asked Mr. Shaw what type of test does the hospital use and would the hospital get to the point of using DIY tests.

Shaw – Blood tests for antibodies are now coming out *en masse*; our clinicians would be able to get that test. We have an analyzer that provides results in 45 minutes with a high-level of specificity; we have enough to do more of that testing.

Higgins – Right now there is a Healthcare for All; one of her concerns is that as we open up, a group of people who might be under insured or not insured are being put at risk. Asked if the Hospital will continue the policy of Healthcare for All.

Shaw – We obtained the rural health-clinic certification so that we don't have to turn anyone away.

Visco – Asked the members to look at the order tonight and get suggested changes to Mr. Santamaria as soon as possible.

VII. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND CONCERNS

1. None

Motion to adjourn 4:49 p.m. (made by: Weld) (second)

Voice Vote Carried unanimously: MacNab-aye; Weld-aye; Higgins-aye; Cooper-aye; Visco-aye

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton