

# **TOWN of HINGHAM**

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

### Board of Health Public Meeting

#### **May 12, 2023**

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board), was held in the East Hearing Room, Hingham Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts. Dr. Eldredge called the meeting to order at 7:55am.

#### **Members Present**

Peter Bickford, Chair (Mr. Bickford arrived at 8:15am)

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

Rosemary Byrne, N.P., Member

#### **Staff Present**

Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer

Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent

#### **Public Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the draft of the meeting minutes of April 20, 2023.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Ms. Byrne, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2023, as amended.**

*Members in favor: Eldredge, Byrne*

*Members opposed: none*

#### **Action Items:**

##### **213 & 215 Cushing Street, Definitive Subdivision**

Attorney Jeff Tocchio for the Bristol Brothers Development Corporation, Ms. Taylor Corsano and Mr. Chris Morley from Crocker Design Engineer Group.

- Attorney Tocchio recapped the highlights from the meeting on January 4, 2023, when they were before the Board to discuss the previously approved project as a Flexible Residential Development under a common condominium association for 22 bedrooms to proposing a subdivision of individual lots. Since that meeting, it has returned to the original proposed common condominium that was approved during the FRD review.
- Dr. Eldredge confirmed that the plan before the Board today is the original March 2022, 22 bedrooms approved plan with minor changes and there is no proposed septic plans to date.
- Mr. Chessia reviewed his finding on the north side where there is ledge and the south side where there is pure sand. For the septic system's primary and reserve, they may have to go deeper. The reserve, which will be on the northern edge, may hit some rock. Could not prove if there was groundwater; did not dig deep enough to prove it.
- The septic system will be a shared system overseen by the Association.
- There will be a request for variances on 2 of the houses' foundations for ground water and there are 2 of the houses that meet the 18" above groundwater rule.
- 215 Cushing is the original house and not confirmed if there is a dug or drilled well and if so it will be abandoned.
- 213 Cushing is a drilled well and not sure if has been activated.
- The well in front of 211 is an irrigation well.
- There are 6 units going in with no well issues. The wells that exist are not drinking wells.
- Plymouth River is approximately 400 feet back and this area abuts Black Rock Country Club

- Attorney Tocchio is before the Board to get approval of the plans marked April 24, 2023, of what's before them so then it can go to the Planning Board and then it will go back to the Board of Health for the septic review.
- Mr. Bickford recommended that a letter be written by the applicant to the Building Commissioner confirming that the soils are compacted and certified by a P.E. (professional engineer).
- Ms. Sarni suggested that it be part of the conditions for the approval of the septic system.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, and seconded by Ms. Byrne and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the Definitive Subdivision FRD dated plan of April 24, 2023, and the Board will wait until further review from the Planning Board, which could affect the design of the septic system.**

*Members in favor: Eldredge, Byrne and Bickford*

*Members opposed: none*

### **Discussion**

- New Construction Variances (no discussion)
- Ms. Byrne provided documents for the Board to review and gave an overview of PFAS. She clarified to the Board that although there are no issues yet this is something that should be on our radar.
- PFAS is found in plastics, fire suppression, artificial turf and this chemical does not break down. It is found in many products and when it ends up in the landfills or water it does not break down and studies are showing it causes certain types of cancer, liver issues and fertility issues.
- Weir River Water System test for 6 contaminants. The levels of these 6 chemicals are currently acceptable.
- Should those numbers rise to an unacceptable level, what plan will be put in place?
- There also needs to be a plan of the disposal of artificial turf if it were to be replaced. Ms. Sarni suggested that we start looking at sports courts when someone files for a building permit. The city of Boston no longer allows this type of turf to be installed.

### **New Business**

- No new business.

### **EHO REPORT**

Ms. Sarni informed the Board she has received money from the state for an Opioid Grant. A coalition has been formed in which she will oversee.

The opioid money will be overseen in three buckets. FY23 will have \$213,000.00 for community education, to help Hingham residents if they have suffered anything that has led them up to this opioid disorder and guide them from the detox center, to halfway house, sober living and getting them back into the community with the support of an outreach position.

- A goal is to find a full-time social worker that does it all. Part-time social work, part-time opioid support.
- Working on the the regional grant projects with Cohasset and Scituate.
- Looking to post the public health nurse position and need to decide what we need for this position.

## **Scheduling**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:45am.

## **Adjournment**

The public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Elizabeth Nee, Health Agent*

### ***Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:***

- *BOH of Health Meeting Agenda*
- *Board of Health Public Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2023*
- *Summary of Issues for Board of Health 213 & 215 Cushing Street*
- *Chessia Consulting Services letter to Ms. Susan Sarni, Engineering Review 213-215 Cushing St. Definitive Subdivision Modification*
- *PFAS Report Summary Sample Chart*
- *Weir River Water system Annual Quality Report*
- *An Overview of the Science and Guidance for Clinicians on PFAS*