

CHILMARK BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

May 30 2020

via zoom

5pm

Present: Katie Carroll, Matt Poole, Jan Buhrman, Forrest Filler, Marina Lent

Also Present: Margaret Maida, Tim Carroll, Ebba Hierta, Alexandra London-Thompson, Barbara Armstrong, Martina Mastromonaco, Jessica Roddy, Ryan Rossi, Jeffrey H

Perc Season: The Board decided to continue the perc season on a week-by-week basis.

Construction/landscaping: Forrest Filler reported on inspecting and approving additional “long-form” permits for the Island’s Phase Two construction/landscaping guidelines, which did not revert to Massachusetts Standards when the Island Stay-at-Home order was lifted, but will stay in place indefinitely for the duration of the pandemic, subject to occasional review.

Giant Hogweed in Menemsha: Forrest further reported on sightings of what could be Giant Hogweed plants along Edy Island Way opposite the Green Pond. Marina Lent had provided some photos of the plants, but was unable to rule out that they were Hogweed. Jan Buhrman noted that Oliver Ossnoss, who works at the Polly Hill Arboretum, would examine the plants first-hand to come up with a definitive identification. Should it turn out to be Giant Hogweed, Marina Lent will report the plant to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), post signs alerting the public and notify the property owner.

Proposed Summer Tennis Program: Jeffrey N. Herman, Chilmark Town Affairs Council President, and Alexandra London-Thompson, Director of the Chilmark Community Summer Program, presented plans for running an initially adult-only, members-only tennis program at the Community Center courts this summer. Mr. Herman noted that members who wish to participate would be required to sign a statement of rules regarding social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions, including providing their contact information to facilitate contact tracing if needed.

The Tennis Program will be a clearly-defined, carefully monitored activity. However, they stressed that the program would not have the capacity and not be responsible for monitoring or intervening in public conduct outside of a clearly-defined, fenced area immediately surrounding the tennis courts. It was pointed out that the basketball court and surrounding areas have been seeing a lot of use since the weather has been improving, some of it appropriate and responsible, other not.

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The Board asked that picnic tables be temporarily removed to discourage congregating. Porta-pottie facilities and a hand washing station will be provided, since the Community Center building itself will not be open to the public. There will be only one staff person in the building at a time, with a possible short overlap at shift change.

The Community Center area will be available as needed for Town Meeting and Town Election activities in early June.

It was decided that the picnic tables will be removed; the program director will contact Marina Lent to confirm that a hand washing station is available for rental, and the program will report to the BOH office following its first week of operation, with any observations or changes.

Lucy Vincent Beach and Squibnocket Beach: Martina Mastromonaco welcomed input from Jan Buhrman over the past week, and reported on the procedures which will be followed by Beach staff during the summer. The staff will be trained to work with the public to convey the required social distancing rules set out by the State of Massachusetts, including handing out cards to people exiting their cars. Lucy Vincent Beach will be opened on Monday June 1st. The Board noted that the protocols must include instructions to staff traveling to the island to self-quarantine for 14 days, and stressed the importance of compliance, particularly when traveling to the Vineyard from a location with higher disease transmission than we currently have here.

The Board decided we will revisit Beach operations in three weeks, and review the conditions, including quarantine.

The Board also instructed Marina Lent to work with Martina to secure adequate supplies of PPE for Beach and Harbor staff, and to provide an employee wellness certificate to both Departments.

Harbor Operations: Chilmark Harbor Master Ryan Rossi presented plans for operating the Harbor this summer, based on Massachusetts State Guidelines. The Harbor Shack is able to accommodate two people working at desks which are spaced 10' apart. Windows and doors will be open to allow for good air circulation. Hand soap is on the dock, Crab Corner remains closed to swimming and wading, and Lifeguards will be on duty in Menemsha by June 15th.

Chilmark Library Reopening: Ebba Hierta reported on Library reopening phases, which will be conducted island-wide. Starting on June 1, Library staff will be in the building, working at significant separation from one another, with assigned bathrooms and separate phones and office supplies. On June 8, the outdoor box will be receiving book deposits from the public, and on June 15, patrons will be able to order books for porch pickup, although the building will remain closed to the public.

Methods are under development for retrieval of the books from the book drop box; they will be placed in boxes and set in the meeting room for quarantine for a week. The Board suggested that a "practice run" of these methods be tried out, using the books that remain in the book drop box since before the Library shut down in March.

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Short Term Rental Report: Marina Lent reported on information received from a compliance-firm reviewing short-term rentals in Chilmark being advertised online, despite being not permitted under the Governor's Phase 1 order. She will forward the report to the Board for further review.

Yaffee, Tabor House (13-27.1) The proposed system requires no variances and was approved by the Board.

Rappaport, 16 South Abel's Hill (24-222) The plan revision involves installing a FAST tank to enable a proposed detached bedroom to be tied in to an existing four-bedroom leachfield. The leaching capacity gained by using a nitrogen-reducing technology will suffice to accommodate the additional bedroom on the 1-acre lot. The Board approved the revised plan, pending confirmation of four bedrooms in the existing house.

Howland/Rich 11 Shotneigher Lane (34-1.4) The Board reviewed a six bedroom septic upgrade to serve an existing 3 bedroom house. The plan does not require variances and was approved by the Board, pending confirmation that the leaching system is >500' from Squibnocket Pond.

Scallop Sales off the Boat: the Board instructed Marina Lent to conduct an inspection of the set-up for sale of fresh scallops off the Martha Rose on Basin Road, which is held every Saturday morning.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is Saturday, June 6th at 4:30pm via zoom, link available on Town Hall website.

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