

CHILMARK BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

September 16, 2020,

via zoom

5pm

Present:, Matt Poole, Jan Buhrman, Katie Carroll

Also Present: Jessica Roddy,

Chilmark Town role in COVID19: The Board reviewed a draft letter which seeks to clarify the Board's role in relation to management of the Chilmark Beaches by the Chilmark Beach Committee. The Board of Health is not called upon to make decisions about beach management, but wishes to act as a helpful resource when it comes to issues that touch on public health.

The Board asked Marina Lent to revise the letter to recommend that the town take advantage of the off-season to prepare for next summer, which in all likelihood will still be affected by the need for COVID precautions. The Board felt that it would be very helpful to do an end-of-season debriefing after the fishing derby, while the summer's experience is fresh, with all town entities involved including Police, Harbor, School, Selectmen and Health in order to compile a list of "lessons learned" from the 2020 season.

The Board also proposed updated signage about beach trash and suggested that if porte-potties remain available, they should be monitored.

2 Roger's Lane (29-16.2 & 16.6) The Board reviewed a septic plan prepared by Chris Alley which shows two systems in full compliance being possible on the property, which is a requirement in order to build a guest house. The two systems having been demonstrated, Chris Alley requested Board agreement to installing a proposed new 1,500 gallon tank and tie in the existing leaching system which consists of two pits, one of which has never received wastewater, according to septic system inspector Doug Cooper. Under the proposal, the D-box will be reset in order to feed wastewater equally to both pits.

The proposal foresees adding an office to the existing 3-bedroom house, along with a two-bedroom guest house. However, the proposal also shows a proposed well location less than 30' from the property line. The Board noted that this could be planned in order to preserve existing cedar trees which screen the property from its abutter. The abutter could be asked to provide setback relief with this consideration. The Board **approved** the proposed plan.

School Playground: The Board noted that the Chilmark School has declared its intention to open the playground. The Board felt that its role is to ensure that activities undertaken by the

school are fully compliant with state guidelines. The decision of whether to open the playground, however, rests with the school district.

In general, the Board is supportive of allowing children access to the playground, judging that, *while disease prevalence remains low on the island*, the benefit of physical exercise outweighs the risk of contact and disease transmission among the children given that the Chilmark School has a very small student population.

The Board noted with satisfaction that the Chilmark School now has a full-time nurse, and welcomed Pamela Rendek to her position at the School.

Homeport Restaurant: The Board also noted that work to access sewer lines appeared to be underway at the Homeport Restaurant, and asked Marina Lent to follow up with the facility owners.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Wednesday, October 7th. A zoom address will be posted on the town calendar on the website.