

Shutesbury Board of Health
February 15, 2023, 7pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members; Walter Tibbetts, Dina Stander, Cemetery Commission; Chris Elliott, Lisa Kuerzel, Diane Jacoby, Jewish Cemetery abutters; Keren Rhodes, Jackie Katz, JCA; Mary Lou Conca, town resident.

Actions taken:

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Elections: Cat and Wm were voted representative and alternate, respectively, to the Oversight Board of the district. Norene and Garrett were voted representative and alternate, respectively, to the Valley Health Coalition. There was discussion of the need to have backups for all extracurricular commitments.

70 Cooleyville Road, ZM-15, DWCP repair: Board voted to issue the permit on Claudia's recommendation, with the condition that installation may not begin before the Conservation Commission rules on the RDA at its meeting on March 9.

31 Merrill Drive, ZB-655, DWCP repair: this includes a variance for well setback, from 100 to 70', due to slope and available space. On Claudia's recommendation the board voted to approve the application with the provision that installation can take place only after a baseline water test for coliform and nitrate is performed, with a strong recommendation for annual testing for the first five years thereafter.

Discussion:

2/16, 1pm: DPH statewide webinar re CDC emergency preparedness funding application. Norene will try to attend this, possibly Arleen also.

2/21, 9:30-3:30, Olver Center: Health equity training with emphasis on aging. In person, no charge, breakfast and lunch provided. Arleen may attend.

Norene updated board on the Valley Health Coalition, which is in the process of hiring staff including public health nurses. Public Health nursing services have been assigned to Shutesbury from the Collaborative and have gained access to infectious disease case monitoring. Arleen said she is quite happy to have someone else take over MAVEN but she would remain available to help as needed. Also, collaborative members are considering sharing resources from the State Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds, which

will be coming to the towns and cities for up to 15 years. Pooling funds would increase the available money to around \$82,000 for the six towns and Greenfield and make possible a more successful and targeted plan than could be implemented by towns individually. Must be discussed with Select Board. Also reviewing software to track inspections and other data.

7:35 Cat asked Garrett to chair the remainder of the meeting so she could sum up the current state of our knowledge about green burial at the Jewish Cemetery on Leverett Road. There was much lively and detailed discussion among board members and with the public both before and after a preliminary motion was made; the motion in its final form was unanimously accepted by the board and is included below.*

Adjourn 8:45

*Board of Health requirements for green burial at Jewish Cemetery:

A distance of no less than 100 feet shall be maintained between a green (natural) burial and any private drinking water well.

Unless and until the distance to any abutter's well is determined by a professional surveyor, the 100-foot setback shall be between the burial and the property line.

In the case of abutters on the opposite (north) side of Leverett Road, the property line shall be defined as the line between the abutter's property and the road right-of-way.

The density of green (natural) burials shall not exceed 50 per acre; acreage shall not include the original conventional burial area.

The owner of the property, the Jewish Community of Amherst, shall determine the slope of the eastern side of the premises. No green (natural) burial may take place in any area where the slope exceeds 3:1, unless and until stabilization methods approved by the Board of Health have been implemented.

These stipulations shall apply only to new green (natural) burials taking place after February 15, 2023.