

Manchester Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
8:30 a.m.

**Members present:**

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Tonya Colpitts, Martin Hahn

**Members absent:**

None

Ms. Filias called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Covid Updates**

Nurse Crehan provided the Board with an update on the Covid-19 case numbers and Covid-19 vaccination rate for Manchester. She informed the Board that she would be holding a second Covid-19 vaccination clinic at the Laughing Gull coffee shop on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Nurse Crehan also provided the Board with an update from Mass D.P.H. and Mass Association of Health Boards detailing Board of Health authority during a pandemic. Mr. Colarusso asked that that information be forwarded to both Town Administrator Greg Federspiel and the Board of Selectmen.

Regarding an update on the Town requirement for indoor masking, Ms. Filias noted that there was a Selectmen's meeting the night prior, so she asked that Selectmen Bodmer-Turner, who had joined this virtual meeting to provide a meeting update. Mr. Bodmer-Turner stated that the B.O.S. would follow State guidelines for masking. Dr. Hahn said he did not understand that position, as the State guidance is vague. Mr. Bodmer-Turner replied that the State does require in transportation, daycare, hospitals, and rehab. Ms. Filias asked if there was an intent or motivation to modify the mask mandate that was already passed. Mr. Bodmer-Turner replied that the B.O.S. talked about the areas of mask exemption (including < age 5 or having a health risk of masking) that the State outlines, noting that there were no religious exemptions. Dr. Hahn added that those exemptions have always been in place, and we should be following. Further, that the B.O.S. should not expand the guidance without proper discussion and advise of the B.O.H. Mr. Bodmer-Turner asked what responses the B.O.H. issued. Mr. Colarusso wondered if the B.O.H. should issue clarifications. He added that Mr. Bodmer-Turner's response to the Manchester Athletic Club was excellent. He again asked if further clarifications should be issued. Mr. Bodmer-Turner replied that the B.O.S. had already done that in a document. Mr. Colpitts advised all to be careful when requiring more than the State and to be sure to specify if the justification is to protect the vulnerable. Mr. Bodmer-Turner said that the State guidelines for mask exemptions is what the B.O.S. discussed last night and adopted last night. Ms. Filias said that if there was not a vote of the B.O.S. but consensus, could he forward that information to the B.O.H. Mr. Bodmer-Turner stated that he had copied Ms. Lufkin on his correspondence. Ms. Filias again asked that Mr. Bodmer-Turner please include the B.O.H. in his meeting planning. Mr. Colarusso asked if the mask exemption information

would be made public. He made a motion to request that the exemption information be published online.

Dr. Hahn agreed with the exemption information only, he seconded Mr. Colarusso's motion. He noted that confusion could have been avoided by providing more detailed information to the public.

By roll call vote, the motion to publish the State mask exemption information was unanimous.

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

### **3 Plum Hill Road**

B.O.H. Consultant Engineer Gerry McDonald was present for this plan review. Mr. McDonald noted that the septic system design plan has been submitted to increase the design flow to accommodate a heated, finished barn that is being rebuilt on the property. He stated that a new 1,500-gallon poly tank had been installed last year, at time of transfer. He noted that the new system expansion will include a leach trench and establish a qualified reserve area. He wanted to note for the record that the existing system is now 40+ years old and wanted to be sure the owner and designer would cognizant that they were expanding what is already an old system. Mr. McDonald said he had reviewed the plan, received his requested revisions and was recommending plan approval. Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the septic system expansion plan for 3 Plum Hill Road, dated 08/02/21 and revised on 09/08/21 as presented by Morin Cameron Engineering. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to approve the plan was unanimous.

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Town Administrator Greg Federspiel interrupted Ms. Filias, asking that the Board provide an update on the Hamilton applied for DPH Grant. Ms. Filias reminded that the B.O.H. were already unanimous that they did not wish to participate in the grant. Mr. Federspiel felt that following the last discussion, that there was the possibility of further review of discussion. Ms. Filias stated that the Board had voted once to not participate in the grant. She said she had received a call from the Hamilton Chairperson who had also indicated that he was no longer interested in the grant. She noted that in response to Mr. Federspiel's request for discussion and as the agenda had already been posted without this item, she had individually had each member polled to confirm their past vote. She reported that all five members

were unanimous that they had already voted down the grant. She said that was now twice that the Board had unanimously voted down the grant. That not one Board of Health member wanted to pursue or revisit the grant. She said that the Hamilton B.O.H. Chair, having contacted her prior to say he was no longer interested in the grant, had called her again to question if it was to be revisited. She said that the Board of Health can decide if they want to participate or not. Mr. Colarusso said that no one on the B.O.H. wishes to bring up the matter and had already voted unanimously not to participate. Mr. Federspiel recalled that the Board said they would discuss as Chairpersons. Ms. Filias said o.k., the Board will clarify their position. Dr. Hahn stated that the B.O.H. does not want to engage in further discussions or complicate matters not only due to the lack of communications and that he rejects any further discussions on the matter. Mr. Colarusso said that not because he wanted one, but just to be nice, he had asked for a communication plan and his doing so may have misconstrued things.

Ms. Filias made a motion to confirm that the B.O.H. does not want to pursue the Hamilton applied for D.P.H. Grant. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the B.O.H. unanimously approved the motion that the B.O.H. does not wish to pursue the Hamilton applied for D.P.H. Grant.

Ms. Filias, in favor  
Mr. Colarusso, in favor  
Ms. Cottler, in favor  
Dr. Colpitts, in favor  
Dr. Hahn, in favor

Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, members unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Filias, in favor  
Mr. Colarusso, in favor  
Ms. Cottler, in favor  
Dr. Colpitts, in favor  
Dr. Hahn, in favor

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin  
Administrative Assistant