

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD HAVEN WELL CONTAMINATION

City Hall – Conference Room A

8:00 a.m.

August 12, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Community Advisory Board

Rich DiPentima, Chairman

Mayor Robert J. Lister

Kim McNamara, Portsmouth Health Officer

John Stowell, Newington Health Officer

Deputy Portsmouth Fire Chief James Heinz

Andrea Amico, Resident

Shelly Vetter, Owner of Discovery Child Enrichment Center

City Staff

Brian Goetz, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works

Absent

Councilor Stefany Shaheen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rich DiPentima called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Dr. Benjamin Chan, NH DHHS State Epidemiologist, Christine Bean, Laboratory Director, NH Public Health Laboratories, and Jake Leon, Director of Communications, participated via conference call.

2. SECOND ROUND OF BLOOD TESTING

Dr. Chan stated there are approximately 150 people on the waiting list for testing. Consent forms and documentation will be mailed out next week. Most of the people waiting are adults.

Dr. Chan and staff are seeking guidance from the committee regarding the timeframe for the second round of testing. They proposed to have the second round of blood testing open from mid-August to mid-October. The last day to have blood drawn would be in mid-October. This

timeline would allow for the second round of test results to be included in the final community meeting which will be held at the end of the year.

It was restated that all blood test results, both adult and pediatric, are being mailed out as they are ready.

There was a committee discussion about people who no longer live in the area and want to be tested. It was confirmed that testing is offered only in Portsmouth at this time. Deputy Portsmouth Fire Chief James Heinz will contact the people who specifically asked him about testing outside New Hampshire.

Kim McNamara, Portsmouth Health Officer, stated it is possible that once the remaining tests from municipalities occur, and the national agencies start reviewing them, there may be other opportunities for people to join a larger group study. Biomonitoring is an emerging research field that may be useful for this purpose.

Chairman DiPentima asked the committee for a consensus regarding the timetable presented by Dr. Chan and staff. The committee approved the timetable as presented. Therefore, the mid-October date is the final date for participants to have blood drawn.

3. FINAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Dr. Chan stated that the final community meeting will be at the end of the year. This will allow the results from the second round of testing to be included in the final analysis and report. The meeting will be a summary of all results (adult and pediatric).

There was a discussion among the committee regarding meeting notification to the public and especially businesses at Pease. Ms. McNamara will work with the City of Portsmouth Outreach Coordinator to ensure that emails and newsletters are being distributed to the businesses at Pease.

Chairman DiPentima and Mayor Lister will discuss the notification issues regarding the Pease Development Authority (PDA) with John Bohenko, City Manager. They hope to have Mr. Bohenko address the issue at the next PDA board meeting.

4. SUMMARY OF DECISION REGARDING PEDIATRIC TEST RESULTS

Dr. Chan confirmed that test results are being prepared for mailing. They anticipate getting the remaining results back by the end of August.

The committee discussed the location of the pediatric meeting. It is currently, tentatively, scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2015, in the City Council Chambers. It would be an evening, televised meeting. There was also a discussion about conducting the meeting at NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office on Pease International Tradeport. The advantages of holding the meeting at NHDES are the proximity, convenience for parents, and possible extended day care hours. If held at NHDES, it should be available on YouTube the next day. The committee will confirm this.

5. SEPARATE COMMUNITY MEETING AFTER AUGUST 31ST

As stated above, a separate pediatric meeting will be held after August 31st. It will be similar to the first adult meeting, and summarize the preliminary results so participants can put the data into context. The final meeting will present more epidemiological analysis (for example, water consumption data).

6. UPCOMING AUGUST 26, 2015, MEETING WITH AIR FORCE AND PRE-MEETING QUESTIONS SUBMISSION

The Air Force has requested a 30-minute gathering with the committee and others prior to the 7:00 p.m meeting in the City Council Chambers.

All committee members need to submit questions to Brian Goetz, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, by Wednesday, August 19, 2015. Mr. Goetz will forward them to the Air Force by Friday, August 21st. The committee will request the Air Force provide responses to those questions prior to August 26, 2015.

Mr. Goetz will pursue a site visit for the committee prior to the August 26th evening meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Amy Chastain
Administrative Clerk, City of Portsmouth