**Aquinnah Board of Health Special Session**

***Minutes***

**Tuesday, 2 January, 2024**

**3 PM via zoom**

**Public Hearing: 15:00  
Vanderhoop, 44 Old South Road (9-158.2)**: septic system repair requiring a variance to to the locus well of ca.7’ below the 150’ Aquinnah Board of Health required separation. No responses to the public notification of abutters was received. The Board unanimously **approved** the proposed plan and variance, on the **condition** that Marina Lent is able to confirm soils prior to filling.

**Town of Aquinnah, Carl Widdiss Way (5-170.2):** The Board reviewed a change in the proposed placement of the drinking water well for the affordable housing under construction behind the Town Hall. The alternate site was considered preferable when the decision was made to switch the leaching and reserve areas in order to preserve a large and healthy oak tree. The proposed site does not include variances. The Board unanimously **approved** the Well construction permit application as proposed, and noted that the septic system construction permit cannot be released until a well completion report is on file with the BoH.

**Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Update:** Marina Lent updated the Board on the recent hire of an island-wide inspector under the PHE program to replace inspector Drew Belsky who has been hired as the Tisbury Health Agent. She also described the decision-making and administrative structures for the grant. The Collaborative includes the seven towns of Dukes County and Nantucket. The Health Agents of the participating towns act as a governing board for the grant, Mike Hugo acts as the Shared Service Coordinator, ensuring that reporting and other State requirements are fulfilled, while the County is the fiscal agent and administrator of the grant. These arrangements will be formalized when Boards of Health sign off on a draft Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration under the grant. The MOU is currently being reviewed by town counsels, and will be made available to Boards for approval shortly.

In a related matter, she reported that Agents have decided to postpone the All-Island Board of Health meeting, originally planned for January 11th, for a date in late February or early March.

**ARPA Funding Disbursement Model**: Marina Lent reported that the office has received no applications for the funding assistance to install the de-nitrifying component of onsite septic systems in the Squibnocket watershed. The Board could either widen its eligibility criteria, or consider alternatives. The Board noted with interest the report provided by Adam Turner and Rachel Sorrentino at its last meeting on December 19th, and asked Marina to explore with them whether alternative uses for the ARPA funding allocated to Aquinnah could be contemplated, such as exploration of the placement of a permeable reactive barrier.

The regular January BoH meeting will be held on **January 30th,** at 3pm, via zoom.