



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn French, Esq  
Dilip Jain, M.D.  
Swati Sane, M.D.  
Theresa Capobianco, Esq  
Lisa Bennett Johnson, DHSc, MPH, RDH, CPH, MCHES

TOWN: Kristin Black, PhD, MS, Health Director  
Angie Sowden, Administrative Assistant  
Isabella Caruso, Epidemiologist / Shared Service Coordinator  
Tim McInerney, Town Administrator

OTHER: Martin Orio, Massachusetts Geothermal  
T.J. Bernier, Gap Mountain Drilling

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The Board of Health (BOH) met on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023**, in The Select Board's Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair, Glenn French.

## **Town Administrator Introduction**

Prior to delving into the agenda items, Kristin Black took a moment to introduce Tim McInerney, who recently assumed the role of Northborough's Town Administrator, to the Board of Health. In turn, Tim McInerney shared the news of Kristin Black's departure from her position as Health Director for the Town of Northborough. While acknowledging the significant loss her departure represents, McInerney expressed his happiness for her new opportunities. He assured the Board that he is available as a resource and willing to assist in any capacity possible.

## **1. 162 Whitney Street Geothermal Well Variance (Continued)**

### **Martin Orio from Massachusetts Geothermal Addressed the Board**

Martin Orio provided clarification to the Board regarding the proposed geothermal well project at 162 Whitney Street. Martin Orio outlined that the proposed well will be a vertical closed-loop geothermal system. He elaborated that it entails drilling a six-inch vertical bore, following the standard procedure for well drilling. The bore will be lined with a steel casing until it reaches bedrock, at which point the bedrock itself will serve as the casing.

Following the drilling, a loop of high-density polyethylene piping will be inserted into the well. This piping loop will contain a fluid mixture, typically water and antifreeze, responsible for absorbing heat from the ground. Lisa Bennett Johnson raised concerns regarding potential leaks, to which Martin Orio reassured that the system is designed not to leak. Furthermore, he emphasized that any leakage would be immediately noticeable to the owner due to a loss of pressure within the system.

## **Conclusion**

The Board found Martin Orio's explanation satisfactory, prompting Kristin Black to suggest an alternative approach. Instead of encroaching on the setback to the water line, Kristin Black proposed relocating the well to the standard distance of ten feet from the water line and reducing the setback to the property line to 25 feet.

## **Motion**

Glenn French made a motion to reduce the setback to 25 feet.

Dilip Jain seconded the motion.

Swati Sane abstained from voting.

Motion Carried 4-0

## **2. Drug Free Community Updates – Information Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

We are pleased to announce that Emily Flavin has joined our team as the full-time Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator. Emily, who holds a master's degree in Public Health with a background in engineering from WPI, will be a Northborough employee. Her primary role will involve collaborating with the Encompass community coalition, concentrating on initiatives aimed at preventing and minimizing substance misuse in both Northborough and Southborough.

## **3. Emergency Assistance Shelter – Update Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

The site extension has been granted through March 2024. Trinity Church, along with their youth group, has organized a Christmas giving list, with gifts scheduled to be distributed at a community event on December 24th. Gratitude is extended to community members Sherry Clark, Trinity Church, and Isabella Caruso for their support of our families.

This month, the Ronald McDonald van provided onsite medical and dental visits.

The site is becoming more stable, with almost all work permits now issued. The National Guard continues to offer their services onsite.

The Greater Boroughs YMCA has been invaluable, particularly in assisting with a large holiday party coordinated by Christmas in the City. This marked the first time Christmas in the City has hosted an event in Metro West, with coverage of the occasion featured in a Boston Globe article.

## **4. Any Other Business to Come Before the Board – Comments Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

Kristin Black addressed the Board regarding her resignation, expressing her heartfelt sadness about departing. She conveyed deep appreciation for the Board and the Northborough community, emphasizing her pride in the progress achieved and her confidence in the team assembled. Kristin Black announced her new role overseeing the shared services unit at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In addition to discussing her departure, Kristin Black outlined plans for the future of the Health Department. With the retirement of the Youth and Family Services director and staff, she highlighted the critical nature of this service and her collaboration with the Administration office to fill the vacancies. Northborough will be engaging a consulting team to evaluate the departments and explore the possibility of merging Youth and Family Services with the Health Department to establish a comprehensive Health and Human Services department, a model successfully implemented by many other communities.

Importantly, Kristin Black clarified that such a merger would not alter the authority of the Board of Health.

Following Kristin Black's remarks, the Board expressed numerous compliments for her service in Northborough and extended best wishes for her future endeavors. The Board acknowledged her significant contributions, affirming that she leaves Northborough in a stronger position.

**5. Approval of September 12<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Glenn French moved to approve the meeting minutes from 9/12/2023, and Theresa Capobianco seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as recorded.

**Motion:** Glenn French moved to approve the meeting minutes from 11/14/2023, and Theresa Capobianco seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as recorded with Swati Sane abstaining from voting due to her absence at the 11/14/23 meeting.

**6. Establish a Tentative Future Meeting Date: January 9, 2024**

All board members unanimously agreed on scheduling a tentative future meeting date for January 9, 2024.

**MOTION:** Glenn French made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm.  
Theresa Capobianco seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0, rather than 5-0, due to Dilip Jain's early departure from the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angie Sowden  
Administrative Assistant, Health Department