

PFAS Task Force Meeting Minutes

Londonderry High School Cafeteria
7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Present: Chairman Tom Dolan; Vice Chairman Robert Kerry; Members: Craig Durrett, David Robinson, James Doucakis, Paul Lockwood, George Kadziolka, Anne Fenn; Staff: Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik.

Absent: Tom Garside, Brian Lockhart **Note:** Member Kate MacDonald resigned from the Task Force due to family demands.

Chairman Tom Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Craig Durrett made a motion to accept the March 24 and April 7, 2021 minutes as published. Paul Lockwood seconded the motion and as there was no discussion, the motion was voted on and passed, unanimously. **March 24, 2021 and April 7, 2021 minutes approved.**

Chairman Dolan described the April 7, 2021 meeting which was a virtual PFAS presentation provided by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Because of the virtual format, public input was not possible as it would have been during an in-person meeting but Chairman Dolan felt the presentation provided an excellent background and update for PFAS Task Force (Task Force) members and participants.

Chairman Dolan then called for public comments and audience members offered:

- Ray Breslin, 3 Gary Drive, asked if Task Force members could speak privately with individuals. Chairman Dolan responded that Task Force members were allowed to discuss PFAS issues privately although they could not necessarily speak as a representative of the Task Force or Town. Mr. Breslin noted that NHDES maintains a wealth of PFAS information that needs to be proactively provided to the general public. Chairman Dolan responded that **NHDES will be providing a PFAS presentation, available to all Londonderry residents, on May 20, 2021** and that presentation will allow for public input. Fenn asked Breslin which of the following methods were the most effective for distributing PFAS information: public meetings, the town Facebook page, Londonderry Leach Library when opened; Breslin replied “all of them.” There was some question as to whether the May 20th presentation would be virtual or in-person. Audience and Task Force members felt it should be possible to have an in-person presentation at the Londonderry High School cafeteria as Governor Sununu recently announced an easing of COVID restrictions. Craig Durrett emphasized the importance of including a NHDES toxicologist at the May 20th presentation to explain the basis of the NHDES limits and their potential clinical effects to humans.
- Ron Dunn, 12 Quincy Road., stated he responds to numerous calls from residents who received a NHDES letter indicating a nearby well tested as PFAS-contaminated and they don’t know what to do about it. Mr. Dunn indicated many people who call him are unfamiliar with or unable to use internet information sources such as NHDES’s web site and they need a source of information to help them make decisions. **Chairman Dolan tasked Anne Fenn with creating a decision tree that could be provided to residents trying to decide what actions to take if they have concerns about their water quality.** Anne responded she would work on a decision tree but that it would have to be fairly general due to differences in State and Federal requirements and guidelines. Other audience members asked if there were sources of information other than Town or State web sites and suggested notifying residents of the upcoming DES meeting via a non-internet source of

information such as a “reverse 911.” Fenn said it would be helpful to have an EPA representative present to speak at the 5/20 DES presentation as well. She also suggested inviting our Congressional delegation and Dolan mentioned inviting out State Representatives and State Senator as well.

There was discussion on forms of treatment a resident might utilize to mitigate a high PFAS concentration in their drinking water. Chairman Dolan noted the most popular treatment seems to be an activated charcoal filter but those filters have a limited lifespan before they must be:

1. Returned to the vendor (although few vendors will accept returned, spent cartridges);
 2. Regenerated by a backwash process (Chairman Dolan noted that this will not adversely affect a private septic system or groundwater); or,
 3. Disposed as a solid waste which will be landfilled in a lined landfill or incinerated
- Deborah Paul (Hardy Road) asked how PFAS testing might affect selling a home. Would a seller be required to disclose such test information? Would DES release test information for individual homes? George Kadziolka noted that the NHDES map of test sites does not list the specific address but that by zooming in on a tested location, it was easy to determine the exact house where the test was taken. Ms. Paul suggested NHDES be asked to provide information on their confidentiality policy covering test results.
 - Ray Breslin asked if anyone had read the NOBIS Report. Several Task Force members indicated they had and Jim Doucakis thought it was not a particularly in-depth study. Mr. Breslin suggested water quality should be looked at holistically and asked if the Task Force would expand their focus to other important drinking water contaminants such as arsenic and radon. Anne Fenn responded that there are literally thousands of known water contaminants and that the Task Force could not possibly address them all. Mr. Breslin commented that NHDES has a vast amount of test data for private wells, public drinking sources, wellhead protection areas, etc., and suggested the Task Force access this information and make it available to Londonderry residents.

Chairman Dolan announced the Task Force would be providing a “workshop” with water testing laboratories and water treatment companies being asked to provide information and presentations. This event will be open to the general public as a way to provide information to concerned residents. While this event was originally scheduled for the May 5 Task Force meeting, it was decided the workshop should be provided after the May 20 NHDES presentation which would provide residents with a good, basic understanding of the PFAS situation. It was decided the Task Force would target June 3 for a workshop at the High School cafeteria.

When Chairman Dolan asked for any further comments from the audience or Task Force, Paul Lockwood commented that NHDES has been extremely cooperative in providing the April 7 PFAS presentation and that the Task Force will continue to rely on NHDES for assistance. Mr. Lockwood suggested the Town Council issue a letter to the NHDES Commissioner thanking the April 7 presenters for their presentation and assistance. **Chairman Dolan tasked Mr. Lockwood with drafting such a letter and forward it to him and Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik for review.**

Chairman Dolan announced the next Task Force meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 at a location to be announced.

There being no further business, Chairman Dolan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

*These minutes were approved as amended at the 5/5 PFAS Task Force Meeting.