

JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH and BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 7, 2016

A Joint Meeting of the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen was held at the Town Hall on Monday, November 7, 2016, at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was duly posted. Board of Health members present: Jeannine Lopes, Lindsay Gordon and Peter DeTerra, Board of Selectmen members: Charles Murphy, Sr., Robert Espindola and Daniel Freitas. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent, Anne O'Brien Selectmen's Administrative Assistant.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Murphy welcomed the Board of Health to their meeting. The intention of the joint meeting is to discuss the Board of Health's proposed new regulation banning the sale of synthetic drugs.

Chairwoman Lopes opened the discussion by inviting the Selectmen to the Board of Health's public hearing on the proposed regulation on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. She went on to explain that synthetic drugs is the terminology given to fake marijuana which is essentially a bunch of herbs, potpourri or dried plant material that has been sprayed with chemicals that render the material as a fake weed with often disastrous health effects when smoked or vaped. The material is relatively cheap and available to middle school and high school kids because there are no regulations on it. She further stated the ban would eliminate the possibility of selling the product in Fairhaven. A brief overview of the regulation was given by the health agent. Mr. Freitas suggested the enforcement would be more effective with higher fines. Mr. Espindola stated this was information that he had not been aware of. Mr. Murphy stated that this is a worthy regulation that is part of the collaborative work between the Boards that the Selectmen had set as a goal. Mr. DeTerra stated the regulation is to protect our youth from access of the product. Ms. Gordon stated that the regulation coupled with education on the matter in schools will be the key to protecting our youth. Further discussion ensued.

The Selectmen then voted unanimously to support the Board of Health proposed regulation "A Ban on The Sale of Synthetic Drugs". The Board of Health thanked the Selectmen for their interest and again invited them to attend the public hearing on the matter on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

The Board of Health left the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Fowle, Health Agent