

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of Meeting
February 24, 2020

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

2020 APR -1 P 12:01

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Chairwoman Jeannine Lopes, Michael Silvia and Peter DeTerra. Also present: Mary Freire-Kellogg, Health Agent and Amanda Blais, Administrative Assistant.

Before the Board:

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2020. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the current Massachusetts Tobacco Regulations. The Health Agent stated the Governor had already put these regulations into effect; Fairhaven has to adopt the changes. Motion to accept the current tobacco regulations was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Vasconcellos, resident of Fairhaven, appeared before the Board for approval to collect rope throughout Town that fishing boats no longer use. The Health Agent mentioned she had spoken to Harbormaster Timothy Cox and a collection container had been requested as part of the NOAA grant that has recently been applied for. The Health Agent further mentioned it is hard to approve for one particular person to collect, however the Health Agent and the Board of Health were all in agreement to have the rope collection done in Town. Mr. Vasconcellos stated he has a small business where he makes jewelry out of used rope, twine, etc. and that the Port of New Bedford has allowed him to take these materials that he needs, however he wanted to seek options through other areas. The Health Agent stated she would need to speak with the Harbormaster to see where the collection bin would be placed and she would be in future contact with Mr. Vasconcellos.

The Board reviewed the Conflict of Interest Law as required to be completed by the Town Clerk. Chairwoman Lopes and Mr. Silvia signed the statement, while Mr. DeTerra stated he would read the document and return the signed statement to the department.

The Board reviewed a routing memo from the Planning Board regarding Ocean Breezes Condominiums on Huttleston Avenue. The Health Agent stated the condos would have municipal connections. Mr. DeTerra stated the project came before the Zoning Board of Appeals twice. The Board did not have any comments on the project at this time.

The Board reviewed a routing memo from the Planning Board regarding modifications to be made to the Acushnet Company Headquarters on Bridge Street. The Health Agent stated the facility has municipal connections. The Board did not have any comments on the modifications at this time.

Public Hearing:

None.

Health Agent's Report:

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of two upcoming Title V seminars. The Health Agent will participate in the seminar offered by MHOA on March 5, 2020. Mr. DeTerra is scheduled to participate in the seminar offered by MEHA on March 11, 2020.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a Massachusetts Tobacco Conference to be held on March 25, 2020 where the new regulations will be discussed. Information for location and registration was given in Board members' packets.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of upcoming recommended seminars related to Emotional Intelligence and How to Supervise. The Health Agent encouraged the Board that if anyone would like to enroll to let her know and she will complete registration. These seminars will take place on May 7 and May 15, 2020.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg updated the Board on the Community Health Needs Assessment that has been discussed in previous meetings. The Health Agent mentioned this partnership is part of the Board of Selectmen's goals for community and departmental involvement. The Health Agent notified the Board that the School Department mentioned they conduct their own assessment, however obtaining the necessary information for this assessment has been difficult.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a technical assistance grant through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Health Agent stated the recycle center has to be rebuilt and the logistics of what is needed and wanted for the new center must be determined. Kathi Mirza from MA DEP has put together the draft plan, however a location for the new center still has yet to be determined. The Health Agent mentioned site visits have been conducted to see what modern day recycling centers look like.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the upcoming annual seminar she will be attending on April 7, 2020 for community sanitation.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that Katherine Leaver will not be able to perform the risk factor study for food establishments as anticipated, as part of the NACCHO mentorship program. The Health Agent further mentioned that Gail Joseph from New Bedford stated she could perform the study. This study involved the Health Agent to travel to Fairfax, VA for the mentorship program and is financially supported through 100% grant funding.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg updated the Board regarding community shred days. New Bedford and Dartmouth only want to participate in paper shredding, however Fairhaven will still continue with the recycle rodeo event. Textile recovery and electronic waste disposal will be available, latex paint reclaim has yet to be confirmed and community overdose awareness as part of the Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force is in progress.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that letters of appreciation should be awarded to the Council on Aging for allowing space to be utilized for the Buried in Treasures informational meeting, as well as to all of those involved in the holiday light collection project. The Board signed both letters.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a new HUB program where community partnerships come together in times of crisis to brainstorm a solution over a two-week period. HUB was first adopted by the Chelsea Police Department. The Fairhaven Police Department seemed to be on board with utilizing the program.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she had attended the monthly Community Crisis Intervention Team meeting and discussed a recent case.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the recent meeting she attended with the Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force. The task force distributed a survey called "RACK" that asked very intimate questions related to drug use and drug dealers. Participants of the survey involved those who engage in drugs, either dealers or addicts. Participants received gift cards and additional incentives for returning their drug waste (i.e., drug baggies, syringes, etc.)

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the Food Advisory Committee she attends quarterly and the Statewide Steering Committee on Hoarding she attends twice annually.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she had met with the Board of Public Works again to discuss curbside collection for organics. There is another possible vendor, Black Earth, that already works with other communities for curbside collection.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of an upcoming human trafficking training in New Bedford. Sgt. Ortega informed the Health Agent that he didn't see why Fairhaven couldn't participate in the training.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of an inactive special revenue account and asked if anyone from the Board knew of the account. Mr. DeTerra stated the account was created for sewer tie-ins on Sconticutneck Road years ago. Mr. Silvia mentioned that if the funds were from a federal grant, the documents may be archived at the library. The Health Agent informed the Board the Town Accountant stated the account would be closed if not used.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she had met with Vincent Furtado, Superintendent of the Board of Public Works and then met with the Board of Public Works to discuss complaints regarding trash and recycling carts. The BPW is proposing an article for Town Meeting to create a regulation as to what time these carts will have to be brought back in from curbside; the same regulation should be done regarding port-o-jons. The Health Agent stated the BPW may ask the Board of Health for assistance. Mr. DeTerra asked if other areas have regulations and the Health Agent responded yes, with some areas requiring a plot plan to show where port-o-jons will go and how long they will be in use.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she wished to address concerns that had been mentioned at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting. The Health Agent felt Selectman Freitas had asked questions that should've been brought to the Board of Health instead of a Selectmen meeting. During the Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Freitas stated he has tried to get answers but nobody will give him any. Concern #1 Board of Health vehicle: the Health Agent has a note from her physician stating she cannot drive the vehicle. Mr. DeTerra mentioned it was past practice that the Health Agent always drove the vehicle and the Health Inspector was paid for their mileage. The Health Agent stated she had put funds in the budget to have mileage paid for through the seminars and training line item; the only time mileage was not for seminars and trainings was for rain barrel pickups for the resident program last spring. Mr. DeTerra asked if the Health Agent had asked other departments for a different car and the

Health Agent responded that she felt it was not her place to do so. The Health Agent stated she has never driven the vehicle since her employment, as the previous Health Inspector always did. Mr. DeTerra mentioned that the Council on Aging and Board of Public Works said there are extra cars that can be switched, as that is what he's been told.

Concern #2 Out-of-State Travel: the Health Agent stated that every trip she has taken has been paid for 100% through grant funding. The Board of Selectmen asked for departments to expand their horizons and partner with other areas. Furthermore, paperwork for a grant reimbursement had been passed around between Accounting and the Town Administrator, in which the Health Agent finally questioned Mark Rees why such paperwork had to go from Accounting to himself, since all necessary documents had been submitted to Accounting with the reimbursement. The Health Agent stated she did not appreciate the inuendo and if there are future questions, they should be addressed to the Board of Health.

Concern #3 Office Closure: the Health Agent can't control if herself and the Administrative Assistant are out of the office at the same time. The Health Agent notifies the Building Department, the Selectmen's Office and the Board of Health for coverage. The solution should be to have another office clerk in the Health Department.

Concern #4 Possibility of Car Accident during Personal Vehicle Use: the Health Agent stated there had been a car accident while operating her personal vehicle. The incident was documented through correspondence using her work email and the Health Agent brought the incident to the attention of Human Resources to seek guidance on what the procedure should be.

Invoices/Other Business:

The next Board meeting will be March 26, 2020.

There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Silvia made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda L. Blais

Amanda L. Blais
Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant