

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Approved September 27, 2023

Present: Bob Osley, Chair; Vice Chair Jeff Zgrodnik, Member Timothy Menz and Health Agent Charles Kaniecki

Also in attendance: Jean Hobbie, School Nurse

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM Jean Hobbie, school nurse, presented before the Board to thank them for Liz Kugler as liaison to the school. She helped organize clinics and did a lot of good for the school. Nurse Hobbie updated the Board on last year's infectious diseases: 97 COVID cases reported; 4 hand, foot, and mouth; and 24 cases of strep this spring. Vice Chair Zgrodnik asked if some of the cases of strep could be blamed on the smoke. Nurse Hobbie stated the outside air was horrible and also wondered if that had an impact on the number of cases. We have a lot of masks we are hanging on to for now. They are not medical grade, some KN-95 and youth masks. If you find there are community members who are having issues, feel free to contact Jean Hobbie or the school. Nurse Hobbie stated there were 2 RSV cases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Vice Chair Zgrodnik moved to accept the June 14, 2023 Minutes; Chair Osley seconded; Member Menz abstained; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Reorganization: Vice Chair Zgrodnik moved to elect Robert Osley as Chair, Member Menz seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Chair Osley nominated Jeffrey Zgrodnik as Vice Chair; Member Menz seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Vice Chair Zgrodnik moved to appoint Member Timothy Menz as school liaison and in conjunction with infection disease contact for the Board; Chair Osley seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Board positions, distribution of tasks, required certificates: Chair Osley reminded the Board of the different services the Board performs; services such as septic, agricultural and food service inspections to name a few. Vice Chair Zgrodnik told the Board that Charlie Kaniecki, Health Agent, does the Housing Court matters. Chair Osley stated the shared services program will be running out soon. We have tried to utilize as much as we can. Vice Chair Zgrodnik mentioned he needs to update his Servsafe. Health Agent Kaniecki suggested the Board get their ICS 100 and 200 certifications, both online with MEMA in case of disaster.

Health Agent Kaniecki stated if you are doing inspections you have to have your Servsafe certificate.

TOPIC 3 Smoking in Smith Academy Park: Vice Chair Zgrodnik reminded the Board basically this fell into place when banning smoking in restaurants and bars was set in place. Since 2012, the bylaws reference cigarette smoke but now you have cannabis. Vice Chair Zgrodnik reminded the Board you cannot smoke in an area within 25 feet of a building entrance. The law states you cannot smoke on playgrounds, athletic fields and pools. Vice Chair Zgrodnik reminded the Board next door to Town Hall there is 55+ housing area. There is no smoking allowed there. We have elderly people who don't drive, so they walk across the street and enjoy the pleasure of their life. Vice Chair Zgrodnik stated we keep enforcing our current regulations as written. Health Agent Kaniecki stated, the bylaw as written, does not give the Town authority to enforce a smoking restriction. The community has a non-criminal ticket. You can write a ticket, civil, not criminal. You go to the Town Clerk and pay the fine. If they don't pay, the Clerk can file with the District Court and now it becomes a criminal matter. The Clerk Magistrate will ask the party to pay the fine. Member Menz asked if a sign could be placed in the park, but Health Agent Kaniecki stated the park is not a playground. Chair Osley suggested we try putting a no smoking sign, but Vice Chair Zgrodnik disagreed and stated now you are rewriting the Town Bylaws. Health Agent Kaniecki suggested putting up a no smoking sign and ask the DPW to put it up. Member Menz made a motion for the DPW to put sign up in Smith Academy park that says no smoking per order of the Board of Health; Chair Osley seconded; Vice Chair Zgrodnik stated this is a non-binding sign and he is against it; all in favor; with the caveat that we can take it down at some point; no further discussion; Member Menz voting yes, Chair Osley voting yes and Vice Chair Zgrodnik voting no; motion approved. Chair Osley to get in touch with the DPW.

TOPIC 4 Ice Cream Truck Permitting: Discussion about being permitted through the local Police Department occurred. Nurse Hobbie said they are doing an event in September at the school. The Board agreed that unless they are driving down the street, playing music, the permit process is correct as it is.

TOPIC 5 Rabies Testing: Chair Osley informed the Board every time an animal is brought in for rabies testing the Town is being billed. Health Agent Kaniecki suggested calling Northampton to see how they handle these situations.

TOPIC 6 Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be September 27, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS:

Health Agent Kanicki stated he will be away and asked about his timesheets. He was advised to give them to the executive assistant.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS:

TOPIC 7 16 North Street Update: Charlie Kaniecki updated Member Menz on the case.

ADJOURN Chair Osley made a motion to adjourn; Member Menz seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved; meeting ended at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant