

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2023 at 3:00 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Approved March 16, 2023

Present: Bob Osley, Chair; and Members Liz Kugler and Jeff Zgrodnik

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Kugler moved we accept the January 12, 2023, Minutes as written; Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Infectious Disease Update: Chair Osley informed the Board there is not much going on. School Nurse Jean Hobbie reported to Member Kugler that COVID cases in the schools have decreased but there have been some GI issues but nothing major.

TOPIC 2 103a Prospect Street, Residential Kitchen: Chair Osley informed the Board Prospect Meadow Farm is in the process of redoing the building in the back by converting the building over to a commercial kitchen. Chair Osley informed the Board that he purchased a food gift last Christmas that noted the food was from Prospect Meadow Farm. It is a concern of the Board that people do not report new businesses and there is no way of keeping up with illegal businesses in town. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik mentioned Prospect Meadow Farm is a great program and Chair Osley agreed but they need to be licensed. Chair Osley mentioned there is a Title V inspection scheduled for March 9th with Alan Weiss. Chair Osley informed the Board the issue is if he didn't make a purchase, the Board would never know of this kitchen. Shawn Robinson came to the meeting and informed the Board Servicenet received a state grant. Mr. Robinson informed the Board the State is trying to get farms to sell their products to local schools but they must meet certain criteria. Mr. Robinson informed the Board that this will not be a big operation but rather a small one.

TOPIC 3 Shared Services Grant Principals of Operation: Member Kugler informed the Board that the state would like to set up a Board to oversee the shared services program and will be setting up guidelines and future goals.

TOPIC 4 Shared Services Capacity Webinar: Member Kugler informed the Board this is the webinar from the materials that she and Chair Osley filled out. They want someone from every town to participate and Chair Osley agreed he would participate in the webinar on March 16th. The grant was for 3 years and now they need to formalize what services they can provide to

the various towns. Chair Osley informed the Board that the program has been wonderful to the Town of Hatfield as we are providing greater services to the Town such as vaccine clinics.

TOPIC 5 March Meeting Date:

Next meeting March 16, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS:

TOPIC 6 16 North Street: Chair Osley informed the Board that Health Agent Kaniecki went to the Court at the end of January and the Judge granted permission for receivership and they are moving ahead with the cleanup. Chair Osley understands the neighbors are still concerned as it's an eyesore. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik reiterated we know it's an eyesore and we understand how the neighbors feel but there is a legal process the Board is required to follow and that takes time.

Chair Osley informed the Board Health Agent Kaniecki wrote a letter to the owners of 61 Elm Street regarding the illegal tattoo parlor. Shortly after that letter was received by the property owner, the illegal tattoo parlor closed their media webpages. There has been another complaint about the illegal tattoo parlor operating out of 61 Elm Street. We are aware that the websites were turned off shortly after the property owner received the letter and remained offline for about a week and a half but now they are back in operation. The Board agreed that they would get the advice of the health agent and then go to the Police Department to get their help.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik received a telephone call from a parent that there are therapy bunnies being kept in the library of Smith Academy School. He was told the bunnies are there 24 hours a day for 5 days a week. The concern is any animal can cause allergic reaction if a person is sensitive to it. The Board is very concerned the bunnies are allowed to roam free and over the carpeting in the library. Health Agent Kaniecki informed the Board via email the State discourages this. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik informed the Board the school received a grant from the Board of Trustees to redo the carpeting. There should be no food or beverage in the library, however, a large number of students take their lunch to the library. How can you not be allowed to bring a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but they let rabbits run lose in the library? The rabbits belong to the librarian as trained therapy rabbits. The bottom line is the rabbits live in the building all week and go home on the weekend. How can we allow rabbits to run around carpeting all day? Member Kugler told the Board if you have a service animal, the animal is confined to one area. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik stated sorry but the rabbits have to go; this is a public health issue. The Board agreed to contact the superintendent and tell him because of sanitation, the animals have to go. A parent complained, this is a public health issue which needs to be addressed. Chair Osley will send an email to the superintendent just to get background and expressing there have been a parent or parents concerned about rabbits running lose in the library.

Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik informed the Board a resident spoke to him about smoking in the park. The Board agreed there is no smoking within 25 feet of a public building. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik asked where do they go to smoke and who would regulate any rules brought down by the Board? The Board has a bigger issue with the person parking their car on Main Street very close to the crosswalk as you cannot see anyone attempting to cross. The Board agreed there are no regulations regarding people smoking in the park. The rule is there is no smoking 25 feet from a public building.

ADJOURN Member Kugler made a motion to adjourn; Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved; meeting ended at 4:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant