

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023 at 2:00 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Approved April 20, 2023

Present: Bob Osley, Chair; Member Liz Kugler and Vice Chairperson Jeff Zgrodnik; Health Agent Charles Kaniecki

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Kugler moved we accept the February 23, 2023 Minutes with amendments; Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Infectious Disease Update: Chair Osley stated there is not much to report. There are no clusters or outbreaks at this time. It's a dormant subject right now.

TOPIC 2 Shared Services Grant Principals of Operation: Chair Osley and Member Kugler spent 1 ½ hours this morning on a webinar talking about shared services and how it will be shaping up with more structure and substance. They took all individual Town evaluations, current assets and project needs, then compressed them into charts. There is a diversity of what towns have and what they need. Some of the stronger things needed are more staffing and monitoring infectious diseases. Basically, at the end of April they want us to give more feedback. People were unaware that the Board of Healths were supposed to be doing some tasks. Since COVID is now less of an issue and people have adapted to this, how we fill out the next questionnaire will be different than the previous one. We were filling it out based on what we had at that time. Health Agent Kaniecki mentioned he thought we are doing quite well. Over the next few months, we need to set up an administration structure and services and who will be administering them. Chair Osley presumes this will be funded by the State. Chair Osley said he is not sure how this will evolve over time, and we need to think about if Hatfield wants to continue with the shared services. Both Mr. Kaniecki and Mr. Zgrodnik agreed that it's worth it. Chair Osley reminded the Board that for the next year and a half these services will be free to the Town of Hatfield.

TOPIC 3 Shared Services Capacity Webinar: Chair Osley and Member Kugler attended the webinar earlier in the day and advised the Board in topic 2 of what was discussed.

TOPIC 4 Sharps Inventory: Mr. Zgrodnik is concerned about the sharps inventory going forward. We will be close to having zero containers by the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Zgrodnik

informed the Board there are 2 shipping containers left. Mr. Zgrodnik stated in years past we would ship two to three containers per year; now we are up between four and six. This program is very popular, it has doubled in size. Chair Osley informed the Board that he is requesting additional funding in the FY24 budget to cover funding.

TOPIC 4 46 West Street: Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board when he passed by this property recently there was a lot of junk in the front and side yard. Mr. Kaniecki asked if the Board wanted him to send a letter to the owner. Mr. Zgrodnik reminded the Board it has been like this for many years but seems there is now a growth of junk. Chair Osley stated there is another property on School Street which also seems to have junk piling up on the side of the structure. The Board agreed that at this time no action would be taken given the fact that there is still snow on the ground which may make it difficult to remove the junk. This matter will be revisited at a future meeting.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS:

TOPIC 7 16 North Street: Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board this matter has turned into a more difficult one. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board the property does not hold clear title and no one wants to touch it. A receiver was appointed by the Housing Court and when the receiver had their attorney perform a title search, it was discovered there is not clear title. The next step is for the Town attorney to file a motion in Housing Court to give the receiver authority to move this matter to Land Court to get the title cleared. The bank has never responded to any mailing sent by the Board of Health. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board the matter is now in Town counsel's hands. Unfortunately, this means the process will take longer. Mr. Kaniecki agreed to write something up to be placed on the Town's website and Facebook alerting residents of this development.

TOPIC 5 April Meeting Date:

The next meeting April 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Zgrodnik informed the Board a water test was done recently in the school which showed lead in the water fountain. Mr. Zgrodnik informed the Board they probably did the test the day students came back from winter break. At that time, the water would have sat for over a week without anyone using it. The Board will monitor this. There was a question as to when the last time the fire hydrants were flushed.

Member Kugler brought up the issue of bunnies at Smith Academy. Chair Osley and Member Kugler agreed to let the issue lie. Mr. Zgrodnik disapproves of the bunnies at Smith Academy.

Chair Osley informed the Board he is working on the 2022 Board of Health Annual Report and should have it in by the end of the day today.

ADJOURN Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik made a motion to adjourn; Member Kugler seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved; meeting ended at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant