

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of Meeting
November 14, 2019

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Thursday, November 14, 2019, 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.

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Before the Board:

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of October 23, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 29, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 5, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Chairwoman Lopes, as Mr. DeTerra had left the meeting as Chairwoman Lopes called the meeting to order due to illness. The motion passed.

Stephen Jones, retired M.D. from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, appeared before the Board via Zoom conference to discuss the health risks of in-home use of fracked gas stoves and fracked gas infrastructure in Massachusetts. A short presentation was delivered through the video conference and the Board was informed of the human health risks of fracked gas use and infrastructure.

Jonathan Barboza appeared before the Board for permission to install a new septic system on his property at 1 Barboza Way. While Mr. Barboza does not work for a company, he does have prior experience installing septic systems. Mr. DeTerra stated he did not have a problem with Mr. Barboza installing his own system, however he would still like to oversee the job. The Health Agent mentioned Mr. Barboza would need to apply for an installer permit and then the septic construction permit. The Board was in agreement to allow Mr. Barboza to install his own septic system.

The Board reviewed septic repair plans for 15 Leeward Way. The Health Agent informed the Board that the property also requires approval from Conservation. Motion to conditionally approve the septic repair plans pending approval from Conservation was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

The Health Agent read aloud the response given by the Board in regards to the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Jeffrey Mattos on August 19, 2019. The Health Agent also read aloud the response given by the Board in regards to the four Open Meeting Law Complaints filed by Michael Ristuccia on October 28, 2019.

The Board discussed the annual step increase for the Health Agent. Mr. Silvia stated that, during the previous meeting, he had wanted to meet with Mark Rees, Town Administrator, however he realized

this was not necessary. The Board was in agreement. Motion to approve the annual step increase for the Health Agent as of the anniversary date of August 7, 2019 was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The Board then discussed an annual review process for the Health Agent. The Health Agent stated she felt a review should be necessary, however it is the Board's decision whether a review is conducted or not. Chairwoman Lopes stated the Board has never done a review in the past for the previous Health Agent. The Health Agent mentioned if the Board decides they want to conduct a review, this should be done by June of 2020. Mr. Silvia stated the Board should hold off and each member should think about how all Board member ideas can be comprised into one review. Mr. DeTerra was in agreement with Mr. Silvia. Mr. Silvia further stated this discussion should go into executive session when it is formerly discussed. The Board was in agreement.

The Boards and Committees Handbook was put in the Board members' packets for the previous meeting. The Board signed off stating they had each received the handbook.

The Open Meeting Law Guide was put in the Board members' packets for the previous meeting. The Board signed off stating they had received the materials. The original signed documents would be turned in to the Town Clerks office the following day.

The Board discussed the FY20 Policy Goals with Objectives from the Board of Selectmen. The Health Agent stated the Selectmen would like to see collaboration with other departments. The Health Department already engages in collaboration with the Council on Aging regarding flu clinics, the Board of Public Works regarding mattress recycling and the potential building of a new recycle center, and the Conservation and Harbormaster regarding a new grant that has been recently applied for. The Health Agent feels the Health Department has a good handle on current goals that fit in with the expectations of the Selectmen.

Public Hearing:

None.

Health Agent's Report:

Ms. Freire-Kellogg updated the Board on how the Household Hazardous Waste Day event turned out on Saturday, October 26, 2019. MXI Inc. was hired to be the hazardous waste hauler; they were phenomenal. According to the Health Agent, the event ran smoothly and efficiently and the staff of MXI were pleasant. In addition, seven pallets of paint were reclaimed. The Health Agent read aloud a letter of appreciation she had drafted and plans to send to MXI Inc.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a recycling event that is being coordinated with the Health Department in New Bedford. New Bedford Credit Union is seeking to expand their services. Fairhaven will be offering paper shredding, textile recovery and electronic waste disposal on April 8, 2020. According to the Health Agent, the MA DEP likes community events among regional partners.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg elaborated on the grant that has been applied for in collaboration with Conservation and the Harbormaster. The \$50,000 grant will work towards finding a solution for preventing waste from going into our ocean. The Health Agent explained what Conservation and the Harbormaster will contribute.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg read aloud a letter of appreciation she had drafted and will send to Patricia Pacella, president of the Fairhaven Rotary Club, for their continued support and collaborations.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of an emergency preparedness event scheduled for March 17, 2020. This is a regional event where Community Nurse, the Deputy Fire Chief, EMS and everyone on the emergency preparedness roster have been invited. The Board was encouraged to attend.

In reading the response to Mr. Ristuccia regarding the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed about a Title V approval, Ms. Freire-Kellogg address the requirements for Title V inspection reports. These reports do not need to be approved by the Board.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that the Town of Fairhaven does not have a Mutual Aid Agreement in effect. If an event were to happen in town, Fairhaven is not signed up through the state to receive resources from other communities. The Health Agent believes this matter is on the Board of Selectmen agenda to be expedited. The process takes about thirty days to get into effect.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she had received a notification from Brown and Caldwell regarding the mowing of the landfill. According to Brown and Caldwell, further mowing is needed because the gas monitoring could not be done. This notification was forwarded to Vincent Furtado, Superintendent of the Board of Public Works. The Health Agent asked Mr. Furtado to notify her of when the mowing would be done. The Health Agent stated the areas that could be monitored were done.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg read aloud a review of the FDA Retail Food Standards program for the Board to gain a better understanding of what the program and funding is about. The Health Agent informed the Board she had applied to be a mentee in the program again.

Invoices/Other Business:

Chairwoman Lopes asked the Health Agent to discuss the public service announcement she will be working on with Cable Access Director, Derek Frates. The Health Agent explained the purpose of the PSA is to inform residents that broken and unwanted holiday lights can be donated as a means to have less tangles in our waste collection. Barrels will be decorated with wrapping paper and a flyer will be created with further details.

The next Board meeting will be December 26, 2019.

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 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda L. Blais
Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant