

TONY JUDGE, Chair
CHRISTINE MCKIERNAN, MD, Vice-Chair
KAREN WALSH PIO, LICSW, LADC 1, Clerk
JESSICA COLLINS
STEPHEN FRANTZ

SHARON D. HART, Public Health Director

Board of Health Minutes

May 3, 2022

As Approved - June 14, 2022

Present: Tony Judge, Chair; Dr. Christine McKiernan, Vice Chair, Karen Walsh Pio, Clerk; Jessica Collins, Board of Health Member; Sharon Hart, Public Health Director; Jennifer Jernigan, Assistant Public Health Director; Monasia Ceasar, Health Compliance Specialist

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Judge.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the April 6, 2022, Meeting:

Chair Judge introduced the minutes from the 04/06/22 meeting and questioned if there were any comments or changes to be made. Walsh Pio brought forth a few changes to be made on the 04/06/22 meeting minutes. Chair Judge mentioned he would accept a motion to approve the minutes from the 04/06/22 meeting, with the understanding that the mentioned revisions would be made. Collins made the motion and Walsh Pio seconded it. A rollcall was taken.

Karen Walsh Pio: Aye

Jessica Collins: Aye

Dr. Christine McKiernan: Abstained

Tony Judge: Aye

2. Announcements and Open Forum:

Chair Judge confirmed there were no memos left in the forum or comments in attendance to be considered for the announcements.

3. New Business:

(A) Board Reorganization

Chair Judge shared the Board's reorganization as the next item of business to be addressed. The Board members agreed to do so although the newly elected Board member was not present. It was proposed that Judge be appointed Chair, Dr. McKiernan as Vice Chair, and Walsh Pio as the Clerk. Chair Judge

mentioned he would accept a motion to approve the proposal of Board positions. Walsh Pio made the motion and Dr. McKiernan seconded it. A rollcall was taken.

Karen Walsh Pio: Aye
Jessica Collins: Aye
Dr. Christine McKiernan: Aye
Tony Judge: Aye

(B) COVID-19 Update

Chair Judge introduced Director Hart to provide the COVID-19 update. Director Hart shared there were 46 new cases this week with 24 of those cases coming from students in higher education. The wastewater results have been displaying a slight increase. Hart attributed the increase to the spike in at home testing for Spring break and the emergence of contagious variants. Director Hart noted that South Hadley is within range of nearby communities.

Upon doing contact tracing, Hart mentioned most people are reporting allergy like symptoms. Dr. McKiernan noted that hospitalizations and deaths are no longer on the rise, as people are not getting as sick as previously seen. Dr. McKiernan expressed her hopes that COVID-19 will become a virus that appears in the background without causing severe illness. Director Hart shared there are plans to host a vaccine clinic in August with the potential of offering common childhood immunizations in addition to the COVID-19 vaccines.

(C) 7 Gaylord St- E Ink Facility Expansion Update

Chair Judge introduced the facility expansion at 7 Gaylord St as the next topic of discussion. Director Hart confirmed she forwarded the related information to the Board members and did not receive any further questions or comments from the Board members to forward to the Planning Board.

If there was still time to do so, Collins shared she had a proposition she would like the Board members to consider regarding this matter. She highlighted that the K- 8th grade students have a higher rate of asthma in comparison to the state. This concern was included in the Weston and Sampson report with mention that the monitoring of air quality should be conducted. Collins shared that the town of South Hadley is a participant in Pioneer Valley Air Quality and benefits from the reporting of air quality from monitors placed throughout the region. She suggested that the Board of Health make a recommendation to the Planning Board requesting that E- Ink partner with the Town and Pioneer Valley Air Quality to add air quality monitors to the Falls area, with the possibility of requesting monitors with VOC and HAP reading capabilities as well as an alerting systems if/ when levels are exceeded as a

provision within their special permit. This would help determine the community impact from the facility expansion changes.

Walsh Pio expressed concerns about the potential hazards associated with storing toxic chemicals and questioned if the Board of Health oversaw the water draining system onsite. Director Hart shared that E-Link must have a containment area for stored chemicals that is reviewed and overseen by the State Department of Fire Services. Hart noted that there is a stormwater bylaw, and she must go out and analyze the onsite stormwater systems to ensure they are not in groundwater. Hart highlighted that the previously mentioned asthma rates came from a document sent by the DPH Bureau of Environmental and will be made available to the public on the website.

Collins agreed to draft up a recommendation based upon the items that the Board members agreed to, send it to Director Hart with the intent that she will finalize it and forward the recommendation to the Planning Board. Collins made the motion and Dr. McKiernan seconded it. A rollcall was taken, and all members were in favor.

Topic change to Tree Clearing: Chair Judge raised the topic of tree clearing on Sullivan Ave as a topic that the Board of Health should be aware of. He noted that the area is relatively close to the aquifer, sand, and gravel area previously associated with North Pole Estates. Judge mentioned that all excavation has been halted on that area unless on grandfathered land. He raised that this project may be of concern to the Board of Health due to the deforestation area being so close to the aquifer. Collins expressed her concern of the project as she believes it goes against the Master Plan and may have potential risks to the community. These risks include leak risks from the deforestation trucks and interruption of the protective layer of the aquifer. Although not within purview, the members questioned the possibility of providing input to the State.

Director Hart shared that the forest cutting plan is reviewed by the DCR under the MA Forest Cutting Act where full jurisdiction resides with the MA Conservation Services, with the opportunity for local conservation commissions to provide comment to the state forester. The forest cutting plan has been made available online. Hart agreed to contact Town Counsel on the possibility of the Board providing commentary on the deforestation of trees in Zone 2 of the water supply.

(D) Update- South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition (Karen)

Chair Judge introduced an update of the South Hadley Drug & Prevention Coalition given by Walsh Pio as the next topic of discussion. Walsh Pio shared that the last meeting was held on April 13th in person at the High School Library. The success of the Drug Take Back Day held on April 30th was shared. Although specific amounts were unknown, the event has historically had a good turnout which helps the

community safely rid of unused medications. The Coalition also hosted the goggles and golf cart event that helped demonstrate the difficulty of driving while under the influence, in preparation for Prom.

Walsh Pio noted that the presentation to be given by Director Hart has been postponed to the next meeting. The presentation will discuss the Public Excellence Grant and potential partnerships with the Coalition. Walsh Pio highlighted the importance of this as the Coalition transitions its focus to sustainability. Director Hart shared the possibility of more funding through SAPHE and highlighted the grant funded resources distributed to the Coalition, schools, residents, etc. SBIRT (Screening Brief Referral Intervention Treatment) testing will take place on May 3rd and May 10th at the Middle and High School. The coalition is developing a support group for those who are interested in quitting nicotine and tobacco products at the High School as well as planning the initiative at Brunelle's highlighting boat safety and alcohol.

(E) Update- Mosquito spraying opt- out process

Chair Judge introduced the mosquito spraying opt-out process as the next topic of discussion. Dr. McKiernan noted that the Board has received several updates on this matter but believes no follow up action is required at this point. She referenced the June 8th meeting in which there was a consensus amongst members that opting out was not necessary due to the low risk and learning it is only used once all other mitigation strategies have been exhausted. Walsh Pio shared that pursuing to opt out would not be realistic as a plan would have to be curated and approved by the Select Board by May 27th. Collins mentioned she believed the Board was able to receive good insight on the opt out process and provided residents with that information. Chair Judge agreed to table this topic until next year to evaluate any changes.

Topic change to CBD/ Hemp: Dr. McKiernan shared previously mentioned topics and questioned if there was any further discussion or action required from the Board of Health regarding those topics. The topics included application of road salt, well water legislation with DEP, and CBD regulation. Walsh Pio highlighted that in terms of CBD, Director Hart had received an inquiry regarding the potential sale of hemp in Town. This inquiry prompted an investigation with the current Town bylaw banning the sale of marijuana in Town. To Hart's surprise Town Counsel shared that the regulation does not account for THC concentration, being that hemp can have a concentration up to 0.03%.

Hart added that she has been in communication with the tobacco attorney regarding details of regulation drafts. Walsh Pio mentioned that the 0.03% concentration in hemp was the psychoactive amount of THC generally found in marijuana consumed in the 1960s. Marijuana seen in dispensaries can typically have a 30% THC concentration while edibles can have even more. Hart highlighted that the 0.03% concentration threshold was an arbitrary set number and not based on scientific fact.

Dr. McKiernan questioned if the Board is being asked to do something. Hart reiterated that research is being done to curate a regulation that would encompass THC and CBD products. She is currently in touch with the Attorney and will forward information as it becomes available.

4. Set Next Meeting Date (TBD) at 6:00 p.m. Virtual using Zoom

The virtual meeting was set for Tuesday June 14th, 2022, at 6p.m.

Director Hart shared July 15th will be the last of virtual meetings, unless informed otherwise.

4. Adjourn Meeting

Chair Judge mentioned he would accept a motion to adjourn the meeting. Collins made the motion and Dr. McKiernan seconded it. A roll call was taken.

Karen Walsh Pio: Aye

Jessica Collins: Aye

Dr. Christine McKiernan: Aye

Tony Judge: Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully,

Monasia Ceasar

ATTACHMENT A

RECORD LOCATION

E- Ink Pre- Permitting Letter

BOH File

Mosquito Spraying Opt-out Program

BOH File