



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH

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The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held January 8, 2019.

MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2018

This meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Mr. Paul McKeon, Chairman. Other members present were Mr. Chris Cella, Ms. Lani Criasia and Mr. Scott Chase. Mr. Steve Garabedian was absent due to this meeting being held in the morning on a work day. Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator.

Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of **November 13, 2018**. Motion seconded by Ms. Criasia. The vote was 3-0 in favor. Mr. Chase abstained.

Meet and Greet with Senior Center Attendees: The Board held this meeting at the senior center in order to provide an opportunity for senior residents to voice any concerns they have that the Board of Health may be able to assist them in resolving. The focus of this meeting was on the living conditions at Colonial Drive. Also present for this meeting was Shelly Buma, a member of the Northbridge Housing Authority that oversees this property.

The Northbridge Housing Authority oversees 76 units, 44 of these are at Colonial Drive; 11 buildings with 4 units in each. The Board questioned the operation of the housing authority and was informed by Ms. Buma that there is an Executive Director that works 22 hours per week. There are also two maintenance men that work 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. These hours are dictated by the State. The current Director has given her notice and will no longer be at this location. Ms. Buma stated that they will advertise for a new Director but that in the interim, the State will provide assistance.

The residents voiced their concerns of drafty windows and mold stating the windows are so bad that the cold air just blows right into their units. Others complained that water just pours in and that they have to use towels to wipe up the water. There is mold around their windows as was observed in a photo seen on one resident's phone. Another complaint was a concern on amperage because their lights flicker. Others voice frustration over the lack of cleanliness in the common areas and who has the responsibility for cleaning the washing machines – the company that they are leased from or the maintenance men. They stated that the floors are dirty and that there is lint behind the machines.

Ms. Buma agreed that these problems exist and welcomed the Board's assistance. She stated that the windows are on the Capital Plan for 2022 but noted that the amount of money allocated annually for repairs is limited so if a priority issue comes along, that will take precedence.

The Board questioned how residents are instructed to handle complaints. Ms. Buma stated that residents are directed to file a Maintenance Request with the Executive Director. If the item is corrected, the resident is asked to sign off on that request. If it is not corrected, they can file a grievance. Ms. Buma stated that the members of the Housing Authority do not have access to those requests – they are simply informed as to how many requests are filed and how many are resolved.

One resident noted that over the years she has filed numerous requests but has only signed one indicating that the work was completed to her satisfaction.

Ms. Buma stated that the State does do inspections and that they concluded that the windows are not a problem. She disagreed with their findings noting that she has not been provided a copy of their inspection report.

A motion was made by Ms. Criasia that the Board of Health re-visit this matter in six (6) months with a meeting to be held at Colonial Drive; the Executive Director and maintenance staff will be invited to attend along with the members of the Northbridge Housing Authority to check progression with any/all complaints/concerns raised by these residents. Ms. Criasia further motioned that the residents may select one spokesperson to speak for all residents provided that they provide each resident's name, address, contact information and general complaint so that the Board of Health inspector is able to contact each directly to schedule inspections of their dwelling units. This motion was seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was all in favor.

Quaker Street Landfill: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the office is in receipt of the well water tests conducted in November by EnviroTrac for properties 1201 Quaker Street, 1240 Quaker Street, 1256 Quaker Street and 11 Mendon Road. The only exceedance was noted for 1,4-dioxane at 1201 Quaker Street.

The Board reviewed an email from Dennis Giustra, PE, LSP (EnviroTrac Ltd.) outlining the findings and next steps. After reviewing, the Board agreed with his timeline for additional testing in January and February 2019. They suggested holding off on a POET (point-of-entry-treatment) system at 1256 Quaker Street until additional data was received.

The Board questioned how EnviroTrac was able to confirm that a carbon based filter system would work for the treatment of 1,4-dioxane when they were unable to find any information on it.

Mr. Cella made a motion to request additional information on the effectiveness of the carbon filter POET system for the treatment of 1,4-dioxane before proceeding with installation of this type of system at 1201 Quaker Street. Motion seconded by Ms. Criasia; the vote was all in favor.

Tobacco Regulations: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that she has sent notices to all Tobacco Sales Permit Holders informing them of the recent amendment to the Board's Youth Access regulations which raised the minimum legal sales age to 21 effective 12-30-2018. These retailers were also informed of the Board's decision that glass pipes would be considered nicotine delivery products and therefore could only be sold by merchants with a Tobacco Permit and only to persons 21 years of age or older.

Additionally, Ms. Gniadek notified the retailers that their new "21" signage was available in the Board of Health office. She also requested current copies of their DOR license as the ones on file expired 9-30-2018.

Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Sarah McColgan of the MHOA Tobacco Program had asked if the Board would like to meet in the future to review their tobacco regulations to bring them more in line with those recommended by the MHOA. The Board declined as they had just reviewed their regulations and found them to be acceptable.

Citizen's Forum: *No one present for Citizens Forum.*

Old & New Business: The Board was informed that Jamie Terry, Health Inspector, had submitted her letter of resignation. The Board will advertise for a new inspector.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was distributed to the Board:

1. Central Mass Mosquito Control Program – 2019 Commission Meeting Dates
2. Local Public Health Update Newsletter – November 2018
3. DPH/BEH Fish Consumption Advisory – Sutton, MA – Reservoir #6

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 12:35PM was made by Mr. Cella and seconded by Ms. Criasia – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator

List of Documents utilized by Board of Health
Meeting Date: December 7, 2018

A. Meeting Minutes

- 1) November 13, 2018 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Meet and Greet at the Senior Center

- 2) Q&A – *No documents*

C. Quaker Street Landfill

- 3) November well water tests for properties located at 1201 Quaker Street, 1240 Quaker Street, 1256 Quaker Street and 11 Mendon Road; and Email dated 12-6-2018 from Dennis Giustra, PE, LSP

D. Old & New Business

4) Tobacco Regulations - Correspondence

- Memo (11/26/18) re: Regulations & Drug Paraphernalia
- Memo (11/30/18) re: Signage & DOR Licenses
- Email – Sarah McColgan – MHOA Tobacco Control Program Director

E. Citizens' Forum – None

F. Correspondence

5) Miscellaneous

- CMMCP – 2019 Commission Meeting Dates
- Local Public Health Update Newsletter – November 2018
- Fish Consumption Advisory – Sutton, MA – Reservoir #6