



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH

Aldrich School Town Hall Annex - 14 Hill Street
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The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held June 8, 2021

MEETING MINUTES - MAY 11, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97136857685?pwd=M3F3OFFOQ2JvS2JuUUo5UEQ5UTVUZz09>

Meeting ID: 971 3685 7685

Passcode: 882967

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

This meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Ms. Lani Criasia, Chair. Other members present were Mr. Chris Cella and Mr. Scott Chase. Mr. Steve Garabedian and Mr. Paul McKeon were absent. Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of **March 2, 2021**. Motion seconded by Ms. Criasia. The vote was 2-0 in favor. Mr. Chase abstained.

Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of **March 16, 2021**. Motion seconded by Mr. Chase. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

HEARING: 52 Upton Street – Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation:

Present for this hearing was Mr. William Lavallee, property owner, and Ms. Brittany Lewis (arrived during discussion). Also present was Ms. Danielle Edmands, Health Agent.

Mr. Lavallee stated that 80% of the damage was done by the tenant. She has resided there since 2015 and has only paid one month of rent. She has had dogs, rabbits and cats in the house. Mr. Lavallee stated that she called the Board of Health in retaliation for him serving her an eviction notice. He served her in February of 2020 when she lost custody of his grandchildren and then Covid hit. He stated that he served her again in December 2020. He went on to say that his former tenant was there for 50 years and she never had any issues with the apartment. Mr. Lavallee stated that he has pictures of the unit from before she moved in. He further stated that he no longer has keys to the unit because she has changed the locks.

Mr. Chase asked if the Board has any reports on file for this unit. Ms. Gniadek stated that they do not. Ms. Criasia stated that the report notes numerous structural issues with the unit. Ms. Edmands stated that there is a significant amount of work that needs to be done to bring this unit into compliance. Mr. Cella stated his concern that no one gets hurt in the home – he noted that the cellar stairs lacked the proper guardrails.

Ms. Criasia stated that Mr. Lavallee needs to look over this list of violations and to set priorities of what needs to get done but that all violations will need to be corrected.

Mr. Chase questioned what was a Board of Health issue. Ms. Danielle noted that when she conducts her inspections she notes anything that is in violation of the minimum standards – each violation is a Board of Health issue and needs to be addressed. Any violations that the occupant admitted to are noted in the report and are the tenant's responsibility to correct.

The Board noted that Ms. Edmands is scheduled to conduct a re-inspection on May 20th. This timeline was extended to June 14th noting that the owner will need additional time to make repairs. Mr. Lavallee stated his concern that the tenant will just destroy whatever he repairs and asked if he could take pictures of the repairs or if the inspector could come out after each repair. The Board noted that he could take pictures but our inspector is not able to inspect after each repair.

Ms. Lewis requested that she be provided advance notice of any workmen coming to the unit and that they not just show up unannounced. The Board agreed that he must provide notice.

COVID-19: Northbridge Public Schools Wrestling Program: Present for this meeting were School Nurse Leader Lori Johnson, Kevin Costigan, Baird Lashley, Jovanna Tetreault, and the Charbonneau family.

Ms. Johnson spoke to the Board regarding the implementation of the wrestling program and her concern that these athletes are face to face during matches and that masks get pulled off during the competition. The EEA guidance recommends that wrestling occur outdoors but that would ruin the mats so they are proposing that the practices and meets be held indoors.

Mr. Cella asked about the kids being tested and whether any other schools have restrictions. He stated his concern about the self-reporting policy of these students as they are not likely to report any symptoms. Ms. Johnson stated that the other schools are following the MIAA guidance. Mats are being cleaned in between matches.

Mr. Cella asked how many matches are planned. Ms. Johnson stated that there are two matches and of course the practices. She noted that the kids are separated by their weight class so they operate in separate cohorts. It was noted that the locker rooms are still closed so the kids would not be gathering in other areas. They would remain in their cohorts. Mr. Costigan stated that there are 3 mats and that they have about ten kids total on the team.

It was noted that there are just 5 weeks left to the school year. Mr. Chase suggested that we wait until Covid is over before allowing this.

Ms. Charbonneau stated that she has found fitness masks that may work better than standard masks. She also stated that some of these wrestlers are seniors and that having this sport play would mean so much to them. It was also noted by Ms. Charbonneau's son that the referees can make the wrestlers stop to fix their face masks during a match.

Ms. Criasia stated her opinion that they let the kids go back to wrestling. The Board agreed.

COVID-19: Northbridge Middle School 8th Grade Picnic: Ms. Lori Johnson provided the Board with information regarding this request. Originally it was a cook-out but now they are planning on getting boxed lunches from Hannafords. The students will be kept 6-feet apart outdoors. Ice cream will also be provided to the students from the school. Mr. Cella stated that he had no problem with this.

Valley Pub – Outdoor Smoking: Mr. Chase stated that he met with Stephanie, the owner of the Valley Pub, and that he viewed their new patio for outdoor dining and a separate proposed smoking area. The Board discussed their prior vote in July 2020 that outdoor seating be treated as restaurant space and that smoking not be permitted. They discussed the required distance that smokers must be from an entryway and whether this would comply with the smoke-free workplace laws. It was also noted that patrons are currently limited to being on the premises for 90 minutes. Ms. Criasia asked if this establishment was considered a restaurant or a bar. Ms. Gniadek stated that in order for them to be open they have to operate as a restaurant and follow restaurant standards – bars are still closed due to covid.

BVCC Home and Business Expo: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is looking to hold their annual Home & Business Expo on July 17th at the Northbridge High School. Ms. Gniadek stated that she would be reaching out to MDPH to make sure they are able to follow current guidelines for this event.

Clinic Updates/Sponsors: Ms. Gniadek updated the Board on the clinic operations at the McCloskey School and noted that registration has seen a significant decrease. It is expected that enrollment will increase with the approval of children ages 12-15. The group is also planning a Sunday Funday event on May 23rd at the Uxbridge High School with incentives such as an ice cream truck and pizza to encourage families to come down to get vaccinated.

Ms. Gniadek also informed the Board that Twins Nutrition, Grille 122, King Jade, Herbs Make Scents, and the Green Plate have offered to sponsor lunch and/or dinner for staff and volunteers at the clinic.

Food Establishment – Health Inspector Monthly Reports: The Board reviewed the March and April monthly reports prepared by Ms. Terry Gilchrist, Inspector of Food Establishments.

Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that all inspection reports are currently uploaded to the Board's web site so should they want to review any reports they can do so on-line.

CMRPC – Shared Health Agent Services Grant: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the application prepared by CMRPC on behalf of 7 communities in the Blackstone Valley for two shared health agent positions was approved in the amount of \$277,397. The grant is expected to be provided for a period of 3 years. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Northbridge was selected as the host community. These funds are expected to cover the salaries of two agents – 1.5 FTE for inspectional services and .5 FTE for public health messaging.

Ms. Criasia asked who is responsible for hiring these two agents. Ms. Gniadek stated she was unsure of the logistics and that a meeting to discuss that is scheduled for May 13th with CMRPC. She noted that these positions do not replace existing positions but is intended to supplement and support the Board's current staffing.

Compost Site – Consider Naming Site after Paul Monast: The Board reviewed a note submitted from a resident of Town, Fred Consigli, asking that we consider naming the compost site after Paul Monast. Mr. Consigli notes that Paul was an ambassador of the Town for many years.

Ms. Gniadek stated that Paul worked for the Board for 20 years and was loved by the residents that went to the compost site. Should the Board make this motion it will be forwarded to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen for their consideration.

Motion made by Mr. Chase to recommend that the Compost Site be named after Paul Monast. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was 3-0 in favor.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM was made by Mr. Chase and seconded by Mr. Cella – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator

Next Meeting tentatively scheduled for: June 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM

List of Documents utilized by Board of Health
Meeting Date: May 11, 2021

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1) March 2, 2021 DRAFT Meeting Minutes
- 2) March 16, 2021 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation

- 3) 52 Upton Street: Housing Order to Correct w/ Inspection Report

C. COVID-19

- 4) NPS – Wrestling
 - a. Email from Lori Johnson (4-13-2021)
 - b. EEA Guidance – Youth and Adult Amateur Sports
- 5) NMS – 8th Grade Picnic
 - a. Email from Tracey Zuliani (4-12-2021)
 - b. MDPH Restaurant Guidance
- 6) Valley Pub Outdoor Smoking
 - a. Email from Stephanie Wilson (4-7-2021)
 - b. BOH Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2020
 - c. BOH Regulations – Prohibition of Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places
- 7) BVCC Home & Business Expo
 - a. Email from Liz O'Neil (3-19-2021)
 - b. Indoor and Outdoor Event Guidance
- 8) Clinic Updates/Sponsors
 - a. Email from Joan Clarico (3-30-2021)

D. Food Establishments

- 9) Monthly Reports : March and April Monthly Reports (prepared by Ms. Gilchrist)

E. Old & New Business

- 10) CMRPC – Shared Health Agent Services Grant: Grant Application
- 11) Compost Site: Note from Fred Consigli re: Naming of Compost Site

F. Citizen's Forum - *None*

G. Correspondence - *None*