



## TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH

Aldrich School Town Hall Annex - 14 Hill Street  
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Phone# (508) 234-3272 Fax# (508) 234-0821

*The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held July 28, 2015.*

### MEETING MINUTES ~ June 9, 2015

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This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Paul McKeon, Chairman. Other members present were Mr. Steve Garabedian, Mr. Chris Cella, and Ms. Lani Criasia. Mr. Scott Chase was absent. Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Ms. Criasia to accept the minutes of **May 12, 2015**. Motion seconded by Mr. Garabedian; the vote was 3-0 in favor. Mr. Cella abstained.

Motion made by Ms. Criasia to accept the minutes of **May 27, 2015**. Motion seconded by Mr. McKeon; the vote was 2-0 in favor. Mr. Cella and Mr. Garabedian abstained.

**Quaker Street Landfill:** The Board reviewed the April 2015 Landfill Monitoring Report prepared by Sovereign Consulting. This report has also been provided to the Department of Environmental Protection. Test results are consistent with past testing at this site. No action needed at this time.

**Maison de Manger – Food Establishment Plan Review:** The Board reviewed the plans and Conditional Approval Notice for a food establishment to be located at 670 Linwood Avenue. Applicant is Donna Picard. No further action required by the Board at this time.

**Sparetime Recreation – Update on Court Hearing:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Mr. Matt Armendo, Health Agent, attended Housing Court on behalf of the Board in this matter. The owner of Sparetime Recreation, Mr. Ken Couture, did not appear in court so a Criminal Summons has been issued and a hearing date has been set for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Mr. McKeon informed the Board that Mr. Couture contacted him requesting a meeting. He stated that he met with him at the Sparetime facility prior to the meeting. Mr. Cella stated that if Mr. Couture wanted to discuss this matter he should have met with the Board, not with Mr. McKeon. Mr. McKeon stated that Mr. Couture has documents dating back to 1998 and he (Mr. Couture) believes that he does not need a food permit. Ms. Criasia stated that he is selling food products to people and that requires a permit.

**Salmon VNA Contract – Fiscal Year 2016:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Salmon VNA has provided a contract for nursing services for FY 2016 and that the annual contract price has not increased – it remains at \$7,000 for the fiscal year.

**Motion made by Mr. Cella to approve contract with Salmon VNA for FY 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. Garabedian; the vote was all in favor.**

**Sutton Street, 184 - Update:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that she has been dealing with a property management company, Altisource, regarding the 184 Sutton Street property and noted that they responded quickly to her inquiry. She stated that the trash has been picked up and the property secured (boarded up), however, she did note that the rear of the property is still of concern as the pool is full of trash, the fence is falling down, and there is some other debris in the rear of the property as seen in photos taken by Mr. Matt Armendo on June 9, 2015.

She further stated that she has been playing telephone tag with an Altisource representative and that she will bring to their attention the concern with trash to rear of property. The Board also asked that she look into the 2029 Quaker Street property which is owned by the same mortgage company but is under a different property management company.

It was also noted that Central Mass Mosquito Control has been contacted to treat the pool at 2029 Quaker Street as it still contains water. Ms. Gniadek will ask them to check the 184 Sutton Street pool to see if there is any standing water in it and if so ask that they treat that pool as well.

**New Business:** Mr. McKeon questioned whether the barn complaint at property adjacent to the Quaker Street landfill has been resolved. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that she asked the complainant to contact the office with updates – either way – whether the odors have improved or not. Ms. Gniadek stated that the complainant has not contacted her with any updates.

Mr. McKeon also questioned whether there has been any additional information or correspondence regarding the solar panel installation at the Quaker Street Landfill. Ms. Gniadek responded that the office has not received any correspondence in that matter.

**Correspondence:** The following correspondence was distributed to the Board:

- *CPN Letter to Board of Health requesting consideration of adopting health regulations governing non-windrow composting facilities.*

Present for this discussion was Ms. Shelley Buma, a representative of CPN (Citizens for the Preservation of Northbridge) and Ms. Denise O'Brien, resident of 17 Cliffe Road.

Mr. McKeon stated that he wanted to know how many tons per day each of the facilities listed in the CPN correspondence processed each day. Ms. Buma stated that she would get that information to the Board.

Ms. Criasia asked if the facilities listed in the correspondence utilize the same technology that is being proposed for the Douglas Road composting facility. Ms. Buma stated that it was the same technology but not the same manufacturer.

Ms. Buma stated that objective experts say that all of these facilities smell regardless of whether there is a bio-filter. She stated that experts state that a bio-filter cannot reduce all odors. She stated that to protect the residents the Board needs to establish significant setbacks. Ms. Buma stated that CPN is appealing to the Board, not to prohibit these facilities, but being reasonable, acknowledge that these facilities smell and therefore establish reasonable setbacks.

Ms. Buma stated that DEP has indicated that the facility needs a General Permit to process 15 tons per day but that it would take very little in additional approvals from DEP to allow 30 tons per day.

She asked that the Board establish a protective mechanism noting that pungent odors do become a health issue; when people smell something rancid they start to feel ill.

Ms. Buma asked that under their authority MGL Chapter 111, section 31C, the Board can adopt health regulations to protect the community from the odors that will be generated from this composting facility. She noted that the current proposal cites the facility at 300-feet from a residential neighborhood. She further stated that this would be unprecedented as there are currently no facilities located just 300-feet from a residential neighborhood.

Ms. Criasia questioned how close the facility is located to the nearest house. Ms. Buma stated that center to center, the facility to closest house is approximately 480-feet.

Ms. Buma stated that objective experts indicate that these types of facilities should be located 2500 to 3500 feet from any residential area. CPN is requesting that the Board consider adopting a regulation that all components of a non-windrow composting facility be located at least 3,000 feet from a residential zone.

Mr. McKeon stated that it is his understanding that they will be using vacuum trucks, similar to septage hauler trucks, for the collection of the food waste. Ms. O'Brien commented that according to James Berkowitz, he stated at a Planning Board meeting that they would be using their existing trucks.

Ms. O'Brien also commented that a major concern for her is noise. She stated that the facility will be in operation 24/7 using large industrial fans. Mr. McKeon commented that the compost turner rotates slowly so he did not think it would be very loud. Ms. O'Brien stated that it is the operation of the fans that is causing her concern. Mr. Garabedian agreed noting that once that humming sound gets in your head it's hard to ignore it.

**Motion was made by Ms. Criasia to write a letter to the DEP/James McQuade to ask if they have received an application for the proposed composting facility on Douglas Road, if they have processed and/or approved it. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was all in favor.**

Mr. McKeon stated that he would also contact Mr. McQuade directly to seek his guidance in this matter.

*There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM was made by Mr. Cella and seconded by Mr. Garabedian – all in favor. Next meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2015.*

*Attested by,*

*Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator*

**List of Documents utilized by Board of Health**  
**Meeting Date: June 9, 2015**

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- 1) DRAFT Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2015
- 2) DRAFT Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2015
- 3) Quaker Street Landfill Monitoring Report – Cover page, Table of Contents and pages 1-4 of report
- 4) Maison de Manger – Food Establishment
  - a. Notice of Conditional Approval
  - b. Layout/Plan of Food Establishment
- 5) Sparetime Recreation – Copy of Criminal Summons
- 6) Salmon VNA Contract for FY 2016
- 7) 184 Sutton Street – Photos taken June 9, 2015
- 8) Correspondence
  - a. CPN Letter to Board of Health dated June 3, 2015