



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH

Aldrich School Town Hall Annex - 14 Hill Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Phone# (508) 234-3272 Fax# (508) 234-0821

The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held October 17, 2022.

MEETING MINUTES ~ SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Ms. Lani Criasia, Chair. Other members present were Mr. Chris Cella and Ms. Linda Lermond, RN. Mr. Steve Garabedian and Ms. Erin Meagher, NP were absent. Also present were Ms. Danielle Edmands and Mr. Daniel Markman, BVPPH Regional Health Inspectors, and Jeanne M. Gniadek, Board of Health Administrator.

Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of **August 23, 2022**. Motion seconded by Ms. Lermond. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

Food Service Establishment Standards – Review of Amendments to Food Establishment Regulations: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Mr. Markman had been working on creating a food establishment regulation template that could be used in all 8 towns within the Blackstone Valley Partnership. Mr. Markman stated that the majority of the regulations were taken from the Town of Northbridge. Ms. Gniadek explained that the Board currently has 3 sections within their health regulations governing food establishments, frozen dessert machines and grease interceptors. This document pulls all of those regulations together into one cohesive document.

Ms. Gniadek suggested that the Board review their current regulations and the proposed regulations before making any decisions. She stated her goal would be to adopt in November with a January 1st effective date so that she can include with her 2023 food permit renewal notices. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for any further discussion or amendments to the draft regulation.

Food Manager Certification Class: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that details regarding a Food Manager certification class have been finalized and notices have been sent to each of the 8 towns in the Blackstone Valley Partnership. Ms. Criasia asked that the flyer with details on this class offering be posted to the Board of Health web page.

Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the BVPPH has selected John Sullivan as the regional epidemiologist, replacing the vacancy created by Premesai Nagabhyrava. Mr. Sullivan will appear before the Board of Selectmen on Monday, September 26th for confirmation of his appointment. Mr. Sullivan has agreed to the position on a part-time basis.

Textile Ban – Updates: Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that she spoke with the Town Manager and he expressed concern about putting donation bins on town property noting that these are consistently an issue in town with complaints of trash and debris collecting in these bin locations. Ms. Criasia suggested that we ask CMRK if they are still willing to do the curbside pick up program noting that if they were, we could advertise that on our web site to help residents get rid of textiles, etc. Ms. Criasia also noted that she had asked Berkowitz Trucking what they are doing to address the upcoming textile ban but she has not yet received a response.

The Board suggested that a notice go out to our licensed trash haulers asking how they plan to address the November 1st textile ban.

Old & New Business: Ms. Gniadek reminded the Board that they have a budget amendment on the **Fall Town Meeting** warrant to be held October 25th, 2022 due to an anticipated shortfall of funds to cover necessary costs at the Quaker Street Landfill.

Ms. Gniadek also informed the Board that an additional shipment of **Covid Test Kits** were expected soon. These kits will be distributed at the Fall Flu Clinics, Town Meeting, Elections, and through other channels including local churches, food pantries, the town hall, library, and senior center.

In other new business, it was recently brought to the Board's attention that **Marchand Environmental**, a trash hauler, has been operating in Town. Ms. Criasia asked that Ms. Gniadek send this company a letter informing them that if they wish to operate in town then they need to obtain a license so that we can place them on our list of licensed trash haulers.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Daniel Chauvin, Animal Control Officer, was present this evening to discuss ongoing concerns he has with regard to the Stabling of Farm Animals by Mr. Mustafa Harrati at 1316 Hill Street, Whitinsville.

Mr. Chauvin stated that there has been a black angus cow that has been wandering through Town for more than a month that ended up at a farm in Upton. The farm in Upton determined that the cow belonged to Mr. Harrati and that it was the cow that has been loose for over a month here in Northbridge. Mr. Chauvin expressed concern for the health of the animal as well as the general public stating that if a car hit that cow there would be serious injuries to all involved. He stated that the Upton farm offered to purchase the cow but Mr. Harrati declined saying it was already sold to someone else. When the Upton farmer asked if he had the means to transport the animal back to Northbridge he stated that he did not.

Mr. Chauvin stated that while this was happening, a Boer goat from Mr. Harrati's farm had also escaped and was on someone else's property. He stated that this is a very large animal weighing 200-300 pounds. Again, he stated his concern for the animal as well as the general public. He noted that this is a very large animal that basically destroyed the stable he was kept in which allowed his escape. Mr. Chauvin commented that the existing stables in the barn were constructed for horses and are not suitable for the stabling of large goats and cows.

The Board discussed that these are not new issues with this farm noting prior concerns of stopped traffic on Hill Street due to chickens wandering about. Mr. Chauvin also stated that the dog from this farm was found on Route 146, stopping traffic, and when found was in poor condition.

In reviewing the Board of Health regulations it was noted that one of the minimum requirements in the Keeping of Farm Animals regulations is that the animals be contained on the property and not allowed to wander unattended onto someone else's property.

Ms. Criasia asked if the Board of Health was notified by Mr. Harrati that these animals had escaped and were wandering freely through town. Ms. Gniadek stated that there was no notification to this office.

Motion was made by Mr. Cella to revoke the permit to keep farm animals at 1316 Hill Street issued to Mr. Mustafa Harrati due to an ongoing history of violating S201-11 (J) of the Northbridge Board of Health regulations governing the Minimum Standards for the Keeping of Farm Animals and ongoing health and safety concerns due to his improper care and containment of farm animals on this property; additionally all animals are to be removed from the property within seven calendar days and that notice of this permit revocation shall be served in hand to Mr. Harrati by the Northbridge Police Department. This motion was seconded by Ms. Lermond; the vote was all in favor.

The permit revocation order shall also contain notice to Mr. Harrati of his right to request a hearing before the Board.

Correspondence: None

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 6:38 PM was made by Mr. Cella and seconded by Ms. Lermond – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator

Next Meeting scheduled for: Monday, October 17, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

List of Documents utilized by Board of Health
Meeting Date: September 19, 2022

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1) August 23, 2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Food Service Establishment Standards

- 2) Review of Regulations
 - a. Proposed DRAFT Food Establishment Regulations/Amendments
 - b. Existing Food, Frozen Dessert, and Grease Trap Regulations
- 3) Food Manager Certification Course - Flyer

C. Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health

- 4) Regional Epidemiologist – John Sullivan
 - a. Appointment Letter
 - b. Resume
- 5) Updates – *No documents*

D. Old & New Business

- 6) Textile Ban - Summary of conversation w/ Town Manager
- 7) Fall Town Meeting – Summary of upcoming Town Meeting
- 8) Covid Test Kits – Summary of expected kits

E. Citizen's Forum

F. Correspondence – *No documents*