This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Ms. Lani Criasia, Chair. Other members present were Mr. Chris Cella, Ms. Linda Lermond, RN, and Mr. Steve Garabedian. Ms. Erin Meagher, NP, arrived after the reading and approval of meeting minutes.

Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, Board of Health Administrator, Ms. Danielle Edmands and Mr. Daniel Markman, Regional Health Inspectors for the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of May 15, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Garabedian. The vote was 4-0 in favor; Ms. Meagher was not yet present to vote.

**Minimum Standards for Food Establishment – Wal-Mart #2629:** Present for this meeting were Becky Keegan (Store Manager), Stephanie Fournier (Regional Ethics Compliance Director), and Trisha Morris (market Coordinator).

Ms. Criasia read from the Board’s May 15th meeting minutes noting how Inspector Danielle Edmands had received a complaint regarding expired food products and upon inspection noted over 100 products in the pre-packaged meat area were past their expiration date. She noted that Ms. Edmands spent at least two hours at the store ensuring that all expired food products were removed.

Ms. Keegan noted that it wasn’t 100 different products, that many were the same brand – she just wanted that clarified. She did provide the store’s procedures for FIFO (First In- First Out) as had been requested. She further noted that since this inspection they have identified training gaps in their overnight associates. She stated that now they have daily follow up with staff, coaches and supervisors. They also check the deli and dairy areas weekly to ensure that there are no expired products on display.

Mr. Cella questioned whether they utilize check-off lists to ensure staff are doing their jobs. Ms. Keegan stated that they do not have check-off lists.

Mr. Cella questioned how many associates are involved in each department. Ms. Keegan noted that there are 4 people from the overnight associate, section manager, store leader, and then store manager. Mr. Cella commented that all 4 people failed to do their jobs as they didn’t realize that the work expected of their staff was not being done. No spot checks, no documentation. Ms. Keegan stated that they now utilize an email chain to check on work being done.

Ms. Criasia stated that she was baffled that a store such as Wal-Mart which is located everywhere has had no policy or procedure in place to ensure that they were not selling out-dated food products.
Ms. Keegan acknowledged that there was a breakdown in the process and that they now have a plan in place to correct it. She stated that new overnight associates were not being properly trained. Mr. Cella noted that the managers above them failed also as they did not check the work of their staff – there was no checks and balances in place.

Ms. Fournier stated that there are over 200,000 items in a Wal-Mart store. She acknowledged that they dropped the ball – there was a major breakdown in process. Mr. Cella questioned how they are able to perform job reviews if they have no documentation on what an employee does and how well they do it.

Ms. Criasit stated that this Board loves the residents of our community and that we all shop at Wal-Mart so this is totally unacceptable – that it took one resident to file a complaint with us for you to find out that there has been a total breakdown from your store manager down to your overnight associates.

Ms. Fournier stated that the problem has been fixed and that it will not happen again.

**Tobacco Control - Regulations:** Present for this meeting were Joan Hamlett and Jodie Brighenti from the Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance, Agents to the Northbridge Board of Health regarding tobacco control and enforcement of state and local tobacco regulations.

Ms. Hamlett discussed the need for the Board to update their tobacco regulations to be in compliance with state regulations as well as to eliminate a loophole created by an oversight in state regulations to include flavored hemp wraps which are governed under the Department of Agriculture. State regulations referenced cannabis regulations but not Hemp under Dept. of Agriculture and these flavored hemp wraps are used for enhancing tobacco and marijuana and are being sold in our convenience stores. She stated that the only place that can have flavored tobacco products are smoking bars – smoking bars are not allowed in Northbridge under a separate regulation but she advised to write them into the tobacco regulations as well.

Ms. Hamlett went through the MHOA draft guidance document and discussed each item with the Board and questioned whether they wanted those areas included in the revised regulations for Northbridge. After much discussion, Ms. Hamlett left prepared to write the draft regulations for Northbridge.

She stated that upon the Board’s review and approval she would recommend that the Board hold a public hearing prior to adoption. She stated that she and her staff would hand-deliver the draft of regulations to each store that way they can address immediately any concerns that may arise.

**MassDEP Notice of Responsibility:** The Board received a copy of the Notice of Responsibility issued by MassDEP in regards to the Quaker Street Landfill. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the Town Manager is aware of the document and that a meeting was held with the Board’s LSP to discuss next steps.

**Green Team Junk Removal:** The Board reviewed an email from Green Team Junk Removal. The Board did not express interest in meeting with them but would be agreeable to sharing their information with residents seeking mattress removal.
Old & New Business: Ms. Gniadek discussed with the Board a recent food inspection and whether the inspectors would have the support of the Board should they feel the establishment, in the interest of public health, should be closed. Ms. Criasia responded that absolutely the inspectors would have the Board’s support. If an establishment warrants closure, then they should close it down to address the health concerns. She advised that they may wish to at a minimum contact her to let her know what is happening but that the Board would support them in their decision making process.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was made by Mr. Garabedian and seconded by Mr. Cella – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator

Next Meeting scheduled for: Monday, July 10th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
List of Documents utilized by Board of Health
Meeting Date: June 12, 2023

A. Approval of Minutes
   1) May 15, 2023 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Minimum Standards for Food Establishments
   2) WalMart – Letter to Appear (May 17, 2023)
   3) Updates – no documents

C. Tobacco Control
   4) Regulations – DRAFT Regulations from the Tobacco Control Alliance

D. Quaker Street Landfill
   5) MassDEP Notice of Responsibility (May 22, 2023)

E. Old & New Business
   6) Green Team Junk Removal – Email (May 29, 2023)

F. Citizen’s Forum - none

G. Correspondence - none