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, Mr. Steve Garabedian and Ms. Erin Meagher, NP. 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 and Ms. Kaitlin Donahue, Health Inspector.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Mr. Cella to accept the minutes of April 10, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Garabedian. The vote was 4-0 in favor; Ms. Criasia abstained.

**Minimum Standards for Food Establishment – Northbridge Junior Baseball League Concession Stand:** Present for this meeting were Travis Stanley, VP of the NJBL Board, Mr. Robert Harris, Plumbing Inspector, and Mr. Russ Collins, member of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Stanley stated that his plan to address the greywater collection, since the stand is not currently connected to town sewer but is connected to town water, is to provide a tote on wheels, similar to what is used in RVs. They intend on hard-piping the sinks into the tote and then disposing of it at Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement in Millbury. Ms. Edmands noted that she would need to see a contract and documentation/receipts that the greywater is being disposed of there and not being dumped into the woods. Mr. Stanley stated that they were not going to charge them so not sure what sort of documentation would be acceptable. Mr. Collins asked if they could bring it to the Northbridge Wastewater Treatment facility. The Board was not sure if the town would accept it. Mr. Collins stated that he would reach out to the DPW Director, Jamie Luchini. Mr. Stanley also asked about the town covering the costs associated with connecting to town sewer. Ms. Criasia stated that they would need to speak with Mr. Collins and his Board about that. It was noted that this concession stand operates April through November. Ms. Edmands requested that Mr. Stanley provide the office with spec sheets for this tote so that they could determine if it was acceptable for the proposed use.

The Board asked if the sink was acceptable for use. Ms. Edmands stated it was for what they were doing but that it would be up to Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris stated it was fine to use if the Board agreed. It was noted that the sink was installed without a permit and it has not been inspected.

Mr. Stanley asked about the proposed food service. The Board noted that as long as a food manager was present hamburgers could be prepared however if that person is not present, then only the preparation of hot dogs would be permitted. Mr. Stanley noted that he will look into getting additional people certified.

**Motion was made by Mr. Cella to accept the 3-bay sink with the proposed modifications for the collection and disposal of greywater. This motion was seconded by Mr. Garabedian; the vote was all in favor.**
**Minimum Standards for Food Establishments – Northbridge House of Pizza:** Present for this meeting was Amir Roufail, owner. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Mr. Roufail was asked to attend as he had previously complained about the inspectors and was advised that he would need to discuss that with the Board. He did not show for the April meeting so was asked to attend this evening.

Ms. Criasia noted that the inspection report indicates that he is sleeping in the establishment. Mr. Roufail stated that he is still sleeping there every Thursday. Ms. Criasia informed him that he, under no circumstances, is to be sleeping at the establishment.

Ms. Edmands noted that Mr. Roufail has indicated to her that he does not care what the Board has to say and that he refuses to correct some violations. In particular, it was noted that he stores isopropyl alcohol, a chemical, above the food line and that is a violation of the food code. He also stores super glue in this same location. Ms. Criasia informed him that that is unacceptable and that he needs to find another place, away from the food, to store these chemicals. Mr. Roufail disagreed stating that he needs the super glue there in case he cuts his hand then he can quickly put super glue on the cut. He also noted that the alcohol is the same chemical the inspector uses to clean her thermometer probe. Ms. Edmands noted that the probe wipes do contain alcohol and that they are used to clean the probe but allowed to air dry prior to checking temperatures in food products. The concern with his storage of chemicals is that they could easily fall into the prepared food items and cause someone to get sick. Mr. Roufail disagreed.

Ms. Criasia asked if the Fire Department violations had been corrected. Mr. Roufail stated that all had with the exception of the hood system as he is in the process of getting 3 quotes. He noted that he expects to receive his 3rd quote next week.

Ms. Criasia also noted that Mr. Roufail’s food manager certification had expired in February. She asked if there was anyone else certified. Mr. Roufail stated that he is the only one. He works there with his wife. It was noted that she was operating the establishment this evening while he was attending this meeting and that she is not certified. Mr. Markman informed the Board that Mr. Roufail had attended the food manager class offered last week and that he expects the results by end of week.

Motion was made by Ms. Criasia that this establishment close immediately until his food manager test results come in and if he passes he can re-open but will be required to have another inspection before re-opening his doors and if there are any repeat violations then the inspector will issue notice that he cannot re-open; each inspection will be subject to re-inspection fees per the Board’s Inspection Policy and furthermore, the Northbridge Fire and Police Departments shall be notified that Mr. Roufail has returned to sleeping in the establishment. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was all in favor.

**Minimum Standards for Food Establishment – Valley Pub:** Present for this meeting were Stephanie and Andrew Briere, owners of Valley Pub.

Ms. Donahue stated that on April 6th an inspection was conducted by her and Fire Chief David White after receipt of a complaint that smoke from cooking was filling the establishment. Ms. Donahue noted that the complaint was valid. Other violations included pitted meat slicer, repair or replacement of the ice bucket storage unit, water leaks, and improper mop storage.
Ms. Donahue conducted a re-inspection on May 9th and noted that none of the violations had been corrected.

Ms. Briere stated that the mop violation has been corrected. Her staff was not hanging them up properly. They now have a mop company that comes in and replaces them. She has been looking into a new ice bucket but was not sure of what needed to be done. Ms. Donahue noted that her report indicates that the ice bucket needs to be repaired or replaced. She noted in the photos that the plastic doors were in disrepair and were not clean. Mr. Briere stated that he could fix that. The Board indicated that they would need to contact Ms. Donahue so that she could inspect the interior of the unit before allowing it to be placed back into use.

Ms. Briere also stated that a freezer and a slicer that is no longer being used has been removed from the facility. She noted that the pitted slicer simply needed a cleaning. Ms. Donahue explained that the blade itself is not smooth and needs to be replaced.

Mr. Briere explained that the hood system needed a belt replaced and that has been done. Ms. Donahue acknowledged that at the time of re-inspection she was not able to check that. She also informed Ms. Briere that she needs to make sure her staff is trained so that they can answer questions when the health inspector comes in. Simple things like pest control reports were not made available to the inspector.

Mr. Cella questioned the violation regarding the hot holding temperature of the meatballs. Ms. Donahue explained that the container holding them was too large and she advised them to reheat the product and in the future place them in shallower pans so that the temperature can be evenly distributed. Mr. Cella also questioned why they didn’t seek clarification on the violations sooner.

The Board noted that a 2nd re-inspection will need to be conducted and a fee will be charged in accordance with their inspection policy.

**Tobacco Control:** Draft MHOA tobacco regulations along with the Board’s existing regulations and 105 CMR 665.000, the State regulations, were provided to the Board to provide them the opportunity to review and consider amendments. Also provided to the Board was a set of draft regulations prepared by the Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance which takes into consideration the Board’s current regulations, the MHOA model regulations, as well as the State regulations. This matter will be brought before the Board at their next meeting. Joan Hamlett, Director of the Alliance is planning on attending to walk the Board through the regulations. She will then create a final draft for the Board and will assist in distributing to retailers and informing them of date and time of public hearing.

**Housing Code Amendments:** Ms. Gniadek provided the Board with updated housing code regulations that went into effect on May 12, 2023. She stated that she is working with Mr. Markman to update the housing inspection worksheet.

**CNPP Acceptance:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that on behalf of the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health an application for acceptance into the Community Naloxone (Narcan) Purchasing Program has been approved. The Town is now able to offer Narcan to the public. She is working with Ann Labonte, RN and Debra Vescera, RN to offer workshops and to initiate the distribution process.
Citizens’ Forum: Present for this meeting, per email request, was Mustafa Harrati, 1316 Hill Street, who is seeking guidance on how to get his barn permit back. The following statement was read by Chair Lani Criasia:

You asked for an opportunity to address the Board regarding your application for a farm animal permit that was voted on at the board’s meeting of March 20 of this year. The board described the reasons for its decision to deny the application in the letter sent to you on March 29. That decision letter stated that the board determined that it was not able, in good faith, to issue a permit to you for the keeping of farm animals. Based on the information at this point in time, I do not believe the board has a basis to change its decision. However, the board will listen to what you have to say tonight and we will then see if there is a different point of view. Please understand, though, that there is no specific reconsideration process in the board’s regulations. In order for the board to issue a permit there would have to be a new application and a new hearing.

Ms. Criasia invited Mr. Harrati to speak to the Board. Mr. Harrati stated that he wished to address the Board regarding getting his barn permit back for good or even temporarily. He read through his April 24th email noting that the Board raised questions regarding his fencing, chicken cart, composting operations, and water connection. He stated that the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) had approved his fencing – he provided a single sheet from a specification document whose origin is unclear. He stated that his fencing meets or exceeds their standards. He also provided an email to the Board from a Mr. Robert Purcell of the NRCS. Mr. Harrati continued noting that the issue with the chicken cart was a very old issue that was mentioned once and never mentioned again. He stated that this issue is resolved.

He continued on with regard to the composting operation again noting that a representative from NRCS says he is composting correctly – that he reviewed his procedures with NRCS and that they said he is composting accurately.

Mr. Harrati stated that there was a miscommunication and that it was up to the Town to discuss the water connection with the Water Company but that was not done so he contacted them and met with a man named John who said that there must be a backflow preventer already installed but if he were to move forward with the slaughter house then a different type of backflow preventer would be required. Mr. Harrati stated that the water issue is resolved since he recently drilled a well and intends to disconnect from town water anyway.

Mr. Harrati continued on stating that the neglect and cruelty to animal charges were dropped. He provided pictures of puppies that he stated were taken two weeks before the charges were filed. Mr. Harrati stated that in the second case, the judge ordered an inspection of his farm. He stated that the Chief of Police and two other officers showed up along with the Animal Inspector and Ms. Edmands. Ms. Edmands stated that she was NOT there. Ms. Criasia asked who filed the charges against him. Mr. Harrati responded that it was the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Harrati continued on stating that the judge ordered the inspection and that those people he mentioned were present along with his veterinarian. He said he had two veterinarians checking his animals. He provided one of the reports to the Board from Carl Agnello, DVM that stated he performed a health check on Mr. Harrati’s animals on October 26, 2021 and that they were all in healthy condition. Ms. Criasia read the letter out loud to the Board. Mr. Garabedian asked what happened to the letter from the 2nd veterinarian that looked at his animals. Mr. Harrati stated that he did not get that report but that he could bring it to the Board. Mr. Harrati stated that after the site visit the Chief of Police dropped the case. The judge dropped the case so he was never charged with cruelty or abuse of his animals.
It was noted that since this matter was on the agenda under Citizen’s Forum, the Board would not be taking any action on this matter. However, Ms. Criasia asked her fellow Board members if they had anything they wanted to say.

Ms. Meagher stated that she had read everything and didn’t feel that he had the experience to keep the animals in an environment that was safe and respectful to them. Mr. Garabedian agreed. Ms. Lermond and Mr. Cella noted that there was much repetition in the violations found and that they were concerned about the safety of the animals as well as the residents traveling this roadway.

Ms. Criasia thanked Mr. Harrati for coming in. She stated that the Board would not be taking any action on this matter.

Old & New Business: Ms. Edmands informed the Board that the office received a complaint about Wal-Mart selling expired food products. Upon inspection she noted that there were over 100 products in the pre-packaged deli meat area that were out of date. She asked the Board if they wanted to call Wal-Mart before them at the next meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Cella stated that he would like them to appear and for them to bring with them their operating procedures for checking out-dated products as well as a printout of how and who is doing this.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 7:50 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, June 12th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
A. Approval of Minutes
   1) April 10, 2023 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Minimum Standards for Food Establishments
   2) Northbridge Junior Baseball League
      a. Inspection Report (April 21, 2023)
      b. Pest Control Estimate
   3) Northbridge House of Pizza
      a. BOH Letter (April 26, 2023) to attend BOH Meeting
      b. Summary of events (prepared by D. Edmands)
      c. Fire Department Notice of Non-Compliance (March 30, 2023)
      d. Inspection Report (March 27, 2023)
      e. Re-Inspection Report (April 3, 2023)
      f. Re-Inspection Report #2 (May 1, 2023)
   4) Valley Pub
      a. BOH Letter (April 26, 2023) to attend BOH Meeting
      b. Fire Department Letter of Non-Compliance
      c. Inspection Report (April 6, 2023)
      d. Re-Inspection Report – last page only (May 9, 2023)

C. Tobacco Control
   5) Regulations
      a. 2023 Sample Regulations from MHOA web site
      b. Northbridge Youth Access Regulations
      c. State Regulations 105 CMR 665.000
      d. Sample MHOA regulations with notes from the Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance

D. Old & New Business
   6) 105 CMR 410.000 as most recently amended effective May 12, 2023
   7) CNPP Program - Notes

E. Citizen's Forum
   8) Hill Street, 1316
      a. Email from Mustafa Harrati (April 24, 2023)
      b. BOH Decision – Denial of Permit to Keep Farm Animals (March 24, 2023)
      c. Email from Atty. Christopher Perry w/judgement and photo
      d. Newspaper Article from the Patch (May 6, 2023)
      e. From M Harrati – email from Robert Purcell, NRCS -fencing specifications
      g. From M Harrati – photos of puppies (2)
      h. From M Harrati – Boston West Veterinary Letter – October 27, 2021

F. Correspondence
   ● Planning Board Public Hearing Notice – Phase 3 buildout at Osterman Commerce Park