



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

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*The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held December 15, 2009.*

**MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

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

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Thompson to accept the minutes of October 20, 2009. Motion seconded by Mr. Cella; the vote was 4-0 in favor.

**Title 5 Sewage Disposal – 30 Batcheller Road – DEP Letter:** *Mr. McKeon recused himself and asked that Mr. Cella chair this portion of the meeting.*

The Board discussed the matter of the Title 5 inspection report of John Darling for this property and his incorrect determination of an estimated high groundwater elevation which once properly determined showed that the system was not a Pass but a Fail as the leaching pit was in the groundwater table. AS DEP is the licensing authority, the Board felt that this should be brought to their attention as they have the ability to require additional training for this individual or for good cause, could even revoke or suspend the license.

**Motion made by Mr. Cella to send a letter to the DEP, as the permitting authority for Title 5 inspectors, requesting that they review the facts in this matter and determine whether the actions of Mr. John L. Darling warrant suspension, revocation or additional training as outlined under 310 CMR 15.340(7) and (8). Motion seconded by Ms. Thompson; the vote was 3-0 in favor. Mr. McKeon abstained.**

**H1N1 Vaccine Update:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that 200 doses of H1N1 vaccine were received in October and that on October 28, 2009, the first H1N1 clinic was held and all 200 doses were administered. She stated that working with the School Department, Connect Ed (a reverse phones system utilized by the schools) was used and all Northbridge Elementary School (Cross Street) students were informed of the clinic. Mr. McKeon stated that he and Ms. Thompson volunteered at the clinic and that it ran pretty smoothly. No additional doses of vaccine have been received since. Ms. Gniadek provided the Board with expenditures to date for H1N1 clinic supplies.

**Tom Berkowitz Trucking – Site Assignment Major Modification:** The Board reviewed the letter Determination of Administrative Completeness issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. The letter states that the DEP has determined that the application for site suitability for major modification of an existing site assignment is administratively complete. The letter further advised that Public Notice must be provided to all parties and abutters to the Site by certified mail informing them that an application has been filed with the board of health. The DEP Technical Review period commences when the applicant has provided proof to the DEP that the public notice requirement has been satisfied. The DEP will then issue a Report on Suitability within 60 days of receipt of the public notice requirement being met.

Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that if the DEP issues a favorable Report on Suitability, then it is her understanding that they must hold their Public Hearing within 30 days – the Public Hearing notice must be published 21 days prior to the commencement of that Public Hearing. Ms. Gniadek suggested that the Board speak with the Town Manager to seek Town Counsel guidance in this matter.

**Citizens Forum: 1961 Quaker Street – Possible Stabling Activity:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that abutters to 1961 Quaker Street have contacted the office expressing their concern that their neighbor, Christine Taylor, appears to be readying her property to stable her horse. Ms. Taylor applied for a variance in November of 2005 to allow her to stable her horse on her property which contains less than the one-acre requirement. Her lot contains 25,745 square feet of land area. The Board of Health denied her variance request and stable permit application. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that Ms. Taylor contacted the office this afternoon regarding the stabling of her horse at this location and questioned whether the Board would allow her to “lease” additional land to meet the one-acre requirement. Ms. Gniadek stated that she advised Ms. Taylor to submit a comprehensive plan for the Board’s review and that once received the matter will be placed on the Board of Health agenda.

**Youth Access Tobacco Compliance Checks:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that youth access compliance checks were conducted on November 3, 2009. There were no sales made to the youth conducting these checks. Mr. Collett submitted an invoice in the amount of \$300 for his services. This expenditure is to be paid through the remaining funds in the tobacco mini grant.

**Rockdale Concerns – Anonymous Complaint:** Ms. Gniadek distributed a letter sent to the Office of the Town Manager outlining several concerns in the Rockdale area of Northbridge. The letter was sent anonymously. Mr. McKeon and Mr. Garabedian stated that these are Building Department issues, not Board of Health concerns. No further action is to be taken at this time.

**Massachusetts Public Health Regionalization Project:** Mr. McKeon informed the Board that he met with the Town Manager, Ms. Gniadek, and Sharon Pigeon and Todd Chapman of Commonwealth Medicine regarding participation in a regionalization project. This is an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of regionalizing tasks accomplished by local health departments. It requires several meetings of a Working Group over the next several months to discuss regionalization. There is no obligation other than to attend these meetings and actively participate. This grant application requires a letter from the Board to demonstrate our interest in participating. Mr. Garabedian stated that as long as this was not a commitment to regionalize he had no problem with participating.

**Motion made by Mr. Cella to send letter of interest in exploring regionalization of public health services. Motion seconded by Ms. Thompson; the vote was all in favor.**

**Pollard Road – Nitrate Levels Update:** Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that the office has received several phone calls from the agencies that the Board requested assistance from. Most promising were calls from the EPA-Drinking Water Program and from RCAP Solutions. RCAP Solutions is requesting a meeting to review the file and to take a look at the site – the meeting is expected to occur the first week in December. Ms. Gniadek suggested to the Board that a follow-up letter be sent to the residents in this area informing them of the status of their inquiry for assistance and to encourage those that may have chosen not to submit their well water testing to do so now as it may be beneficial to a determination of whether these agencies can provide assistance.

**Old & New Business – Brian’s Restaurant:** Mr. Garabedian stated that he accompanied Ms. Gilchrist on her recent inspection of Brian’s Restaurant and found the facility to be in good order. He said that based on that inspection the facility did not warrant closure. Mr. Garabedian stated that he would like to receive more descriptive reports from the Pest Control Company and that storage of food items in the cellar needs to be addressed. He stated that several food items are not packaged in rodent-proof containers and are easily accessible to any mice that enter the facility. Mr. McKeon stated that the foundation is an old stone foundation so additional work needs to be done to seal up any entry points.

The Board requested that a letter be sent to Brian’s Restaurant requiring that his pest control company submit more detailed reports including activity they are seeing and detailed explanations of what actions they are taking. For instance, Mr. Garabedian stated that the report stated that they placed 57 baits – he thought that meant 57 traps when it actually means that they placed 57 baits within the existing traps. He’d like to know exactly what they are doing. The letter shall further instruct this facility that any and all food storage in basement area must be within rodent-proof containers or the food item must be removed from that storage area.

**Correspondence:** Correspondence distributed to the Board included:

- Ms. Gniadek distributed the Conflict of Interest Law Summary and asked that each member sign an acknowledgement of receipt to be kept on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Ms. Gniadek informed the Board that they are also required to take an on-line instructional certification course by April of 2010.

*There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was made by Mr. Cella and seconded by Ms. Thompson – all in favor.*

*Attested by,*

*Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrative Assistant*