

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## March 9, 2017

Present: Claire Ann Scaramella, Julia Lane, Karen Spaziante, and Scott Moles.  
Claire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Karen Spaziante and seconded by Julia Lane to approve the 2/23/2017 minutes. All in favor.**

### Approval of Bills

The following bills were approved and signed:

Moore Medical	\$130.83
GateHouse Media	\$21.42

### Health Director's Report

**Budget:** Health Director Scott Moles told the Board that he had a meeting with Mary Bousquet, Town Treasurer/Collector and Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant, to discuss an overage in the clerical salaries line item. The overage is primarily from not charging hours to the inoculation account in the fall since balances were lower due to the purchase of more expensive high-dose vaccine. They suggested a line item transfer from the inoculation account to the clerical line item of \$5K to make up the difference and to discuss it with the Finance Committee (FinCom). A reserve fund transfer may be necessary this fiscal year in addition to carefully monitoring clerical hours. The FinCom suggested the department hire a temp for the flu season.

**Rabies Clinic:** The rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9 – 11:00 a.m. at the Highway Department. Dr. Poling from Holliston Animal Hospital will be administering the vaccine. The clinic is open to dogs, cats, and ferrets and cost \$12 per animal.

**Trees Down:** Due to high winds this afternoon and in recent days many trees have come down. Today a tree fell on some power lines near Bazel's but there was no power loss.

**Evening Conflicts:** Tonight the Tobacco 21 hearing has some conflicts in town. The Police Department is having a forum on the "Ramifications of Question 4" and the Holliston School Committee is holding office hours.

**164 Westfield Drive:** Health Agent Scott Moles is pursuing a possible grant from Bay Path Elder Services for the occupant at 164 Westfield Drive to help with cleanup of the site.

**Region 4A Emergency Preparedness:** Archana Joshi, Region 4A Preparedness Coordinator for Public Health, has resigned her position. The position has not been filled at this time. This will set emergency preparedness back for the Region.

**Bertucci's Complaint:** The department received a complaint from a Bertucci's employee stating that the dishwasher is down, all dishes must be washed by hand and many were not getting as clean as necessary. Health Agent Scott Moles discussed the situation with Food Inspector Len Izzo, did an on-site inspection and found that the dishwasher was being fixed. It went out Saturday night and was repaired on Monday morning.

### **7:30 - Public Hearing – Tobacco Product Sales to Minors**

Chairman Claire Scaramella opened the Public Hearing by introducing the Board, telling the audience the format was geared for gathering information.

Health Agent Scott Moles said the Board can choose to vote on the topic or postpone any decision making. He explained that the initiative was proposed by Dr. Lester Hartman, a pediatrician in favor of raising the age statewide. Lester was unavailable to attend the meeting this evening but left the following points:

- 14 year olds have access to 18 year olds but not 21 year olds.
- Manufacturers target younger children with candy-like products.
- The military prefers the 21 year law and that younger recruits not smoke.
- Retailers will not go out of business, none in Needham the first town to implement have.
- Holliston is surrounded by five towns at 21 years, of abutters, only Hopkinton is still at 18.

He also presented the following:

The Board received emails/letters from 3 residents in favor of raising the age of consent.

Of the towns and cities adopting the increased age limit, 141 were approved by Boards of Health, 3 city ordinances and 1 town by-law.

Sudbury and Holliston are both having hearings to discuss the topic.

There were 4 comments on Holliston Reporter, all against the increase in age.

There are currently 9 licensed tobacco retailers in Holliston.

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy said about 6 brush fires per year are attributed to smoking.

Holliston resident and former Board of Health member, Michelle Zeamer, said she worked for the Framingham Board of Health Tobacco Control for 9 years. She testified at hearings and on behalf of smoking cessation classes was told the following:

- No one started at 21 or later; all started earlier.
- "If only it wasn't so easy"
- Have seen 18 years and older giving tobacco products to younger children.
- High school kids don't have contact with 21 year olds.
- Vaping in the high school bathrooms has become a problem; with 18 year olds selling product to younger students.

Michelle is willing to help the Board if it is wanted. She feels very personally vested in the issue through her work and personal experience in her family.

Holliston resident and former Board of Health member, Eric Dickinson also supports increasing the age of consent to 21. He said that most cars he sees at Vape City appear to have underage kids in them.

Holliston resident Charlie Spaziente said that no matter the age, kids are going to get the product if they want them. He said to leave it at 18 since 18 year olds can go to war, drink on base, and get married. He suggested to leave it as is or to put on the ballot for the Town to vote.

There was discussion as to whether the Board has the authority to make the change and it was pointed out that MGL chapter 111 says the Board can act if it chooses to.

Claire Scaramella closed the Public Hearing at 7:51 p.m. She stated that the goal was to get the opinions of everyone and the Board will vote or decide at a later date.

#### **Board Member Comment**

None

**Claire Scaramella motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Julia Lane seconded, and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Lisa Deering, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 3-23-17