

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
September 14, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Jeannine Lopes, Lindsay Gordon and Peter DeTerra. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent and Paula Medeiros, Administrative Assistant.

Chairwoman Lopes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2016.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. DeTerra; seconded by Ms. Gordon. The vote was unanimous.

Before the Board:

Public hearing for an Animal Permit for 258 Huttleston Avenue. Ms. Heather Spark was present and is requesting to have up to 6 chickens to provide eggs for the family. The Health Agent did visit the site and found it to be well maintained and meeting all requirements. Notices were sent to the immediate abutters and a Special Permit was obtained through the Board of Appeals.

Motion to approve up to 6 chickens and no roosters was made by Peter DeTerra; seconded by Lindsay Gordon. The vote was unanimous.

Introduction of the new Board of Health Administrative Assistant, Paula Medeiros.

Health Agent's Report:

The Health Agent presented a working draft of a proposed Board of Health Regulation "Synthetic Drugs Ban Regulation". Wareham and New Bedford have adopted similar regulations banning synthetic drugs. The Board had initially reviewed a similar regulation last year but now with New Bedford's adoption of the ban the Board believes Fairhaven's involvement would create a more regional effect. The Health Agent intends to speak with the New Bedford Health Director for a more thorough understanding of their regulation, then make changes as needed before asking Town Counsel for review of the draft regulation. Town Administrator Mark Rees has indicated he would give permission to seek Town Counsel's review. Police Chief Michael Myers has indicated he would support such a regulation. The Board may also wish to solicit support of the Board of Selectmen before the Board of Health holds its public hearing on the proposed regulation. The intended date of effect of an adopted regulation would work very well with the new year permits for January 1.

Motion to refine the draft regulation as needed and move forward with Town Counsel and Board of Selectmen support was made by Ms. Gordon; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The vote was unanimous.

The Board reviewed and discussed the food establishment inspection spreadsheet.

A complaint was made on August 31, 2016 to the Fire Department about fire pits. This falls under their jurisdiction and regulatory use. The Fire Department is currently waiting for further definition from the Fire Marshall.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control informed the office that West Nile Virus was again found in the west quadrant area of Fairhaven. They were planning on spraying this Friday, September 16, early morning but have cancelled due to the weather not conducive as the temperature needs to be 55°– 58°

degrees or higher. The information is posted on the website, cable TV and twitter as a reminder to people to drain standing water, install or repair screens to apply insect repellent and such.

The Board of Health received a notice that asbestos abatement of the Hastings Middle School roof will be performed from September 13, 2016 through September 16, 2016.

The Board of Health received a complaint about the odor of sewage along the north marsh area at Ebony Street. The Health Agent did visit the site and stated the odor is coming from rotting seaweed. This same thing happened last year along Goulart Memorial Drive. After a storm, the seaweed is brought up to shore and with the water being low and warm, it is causing this smell. There is a patch of the seaweed approximately 130 feet long and 20-25 wide.

The Board reviewed and signed invoices.

The date of the next regular meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at 6:30 pm.

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Gordon motioned to adjourn; Mr. DeTerra seconded. The vote was unanimous at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Medeiros, Administrative Assistant