

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
Board of Health Minutes for December 8, 2015

Present at meeting:

Bruce J. Hunchard, Chairman
Philip Brunelli, Member – not in attendance
Donald Raneiri, Member

David McKearney, Health Director
Virginia McNeil, Health Agent
Liz Hoey, Health Inspector – not in attendance
Mary Ellen Ficco, Administrative Asst.

Citizens: Lester Hartman MD, Susan Murphy, Liesl Carroll, Katrina Vickery, Ellen McWade, Jessica Fournier, Morgan Soderlund, Marikate McWade, Kristin Hogan, Susan Streeter.

A motion was made by Chairman Hunchard, seconded by Mr. Ranieri and voted unanimously by the board to accept the November 10, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hartman requested time to speak to the Board regarding his desire to increase the age for purchasing tobacco/nicotine products to age 21 in Franklin. He provided the Board chairman with a petition signed by 105 Franklin residents urging the update. In addition Dr. Hartman displayed samples of various tobacco products he purchased in Franklin prior to the meeting (one of which was improperly priced according to the town's Tobacco bylaw). After further discussion regarding the benefits of raising the age to 21 Dr. Hartman turned over the floor to the other guests.

Ellen McWade and her daughter, Marikate McWade, gave testimony that the effects of smoking were fatal to their husband and father. After that, Jessica Fournier reiterated the dangers of smoking and that the update to 21 will help society.

Dr. Hartman asked the Board Chairman if he will consider a public hearing on the matter. The Chairman explained the process for holding a public hearing and the amount of time it can take to have the hearing and get legislation in place.

After Old Business was discussed the Board chairman requested an agenda item be added to the January BOH meeting for the full board to discuss next steps for a public hearing on the tobacco issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Garelick Farms odors from turbines. The Health Director explained that he contacted DEP via email informing them of the recent complaints. The DEP send two inspectors to the site, but they could not detect odors or issues. If the Health Dept. is in receipt of

additional complaints the Health Director will take further steps to compel DEP to take proper steps. There have been no further complaints from Stonehedge residents or MBTA commuter train station customers.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

The Health Director and Health Agent provided details to the Board regarding activities of the Health Department for the month of November.

The Board Chairman as if there is was additional new business.

The Health Director stated that his mother died recently from small cell carcinoma after stopping smoking for 20 – 30 years. He feels the evidence is overwhelming that smoking is hazardous. The public looks to the Board of Health to set appropriate standards. Increasing the purchasing age for tobacco products to 21 would send a strong message to the community and surrounding towns regarding our stand on smoking.

There was no citizen's commentary. The Board offered condolences to the Health Director.

A motion was entered by Chairman Hunchard for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Raneiri and voted unanimously by the Board. The next Board of Health meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 10:00 am.

Transcribed by Mary Ellen Ficco, Administrative Assistant for the Franklin Health Department.