

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2009 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Linda Cocalis and John Degnan. Alyssa Rusiecki, Health Agent.
Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES — Review of the minutes of August 17th, 2009 were placed in abeyance until the next meeting.

H1N1 – The Agent participated in two Department of Public Health (DPH) conference calls and one DPH regional meeting. Boards of Health are still being asked to be the “providers” of the H1N1 vaccine once it becomes available; this responsibility will have significant ramifications on our small office and resources. The Agent will contact the Principal of Burgess Elementary School and the Superintendent of Tantasqua Jr/Sr High School to discuss initial planning. Mr. Degnan will contact Joan Dusoe of Harrington Home Health Care in order to obtain a proposal for vaccinations. There are other agencies that will be giving vaccinations, so once the needs are established; bids for services will be obtained.

APPEARANCE – Ms. Irene Congdon, Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP) Recycling Technical Assistant attended the meeting to discuss the grant that the Board received for 80 hours of her time. Mr. John Booth of the Recycling Center also attended the meeting. The Board discussed goals and objectives, including but not limited to: promoting recycling in town, school projects, and potential business use; management of data, materials diverted reporting, and programs such as PAYT and SMART. Permitting of private haulers with mandatory recycling and reporting is another goal. It was suggested that a glass grinder also be utilized at the operations end of the materials diverted; Mr. Booth with look at options. Sticker distribution and potential fees were also discussed. Ms. Congdon recommended that we ask Ms. Belforte if she would be willing to provide some volunteer hours as well. Note: Mr. Audet has taken the current recycling sticker applications and is volunteering to put them into a database, which will make future distribution easier on the office staff.

APPEARANCE – Mr. Bill Mason attended to discuss Lyme Disease and the controversy that occurs over the treatment. Mr. Mason is presenting a documentary film on Lyme Disease, entitled “Under our Skin” on October 3, 2009 at 1:30pm at the Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center. Those interested in attending should call 508-347-7944 to register for seating. The Board will support his efforts.

HEARING (postponed) – 36-38 Goodrich Rd. septic upgrade, owner Fred Gunn.

AGENT’S REPORT — Ms. Rusiecki went over the past two weeks of major inspections, (list attached). Current housing inspections were discussed and the Board felt that, in the future, if an occupant requests an inspection that the data must be

considered as an official inspection, and not just an evaluation in which advice is disseminated. Other departments will also be called in when cross-jurisdictional deficiencies are observed. Alyssa will follow-up. Regarding the housing inspection that occurred at Heritage Green, the insects were identified as Indian Meal Moths by the exterminator, who said that the pest usually enters the premises via groceries. Ms. Cocalis stated that the occupant must dispose of all the grains. Alyssa confirmed that this was the advice given to the occupant.

RECYCLING CENTER/LANDFILL – The Building Inspector told the contractor picked to renovate the service stairway that he had to provide a drawing. The contractor then told Alyssa that a drawing could cost between \$250 and \$600. The Board asked Alyssa to check with Eric, Building Inspector, to see if a simple sketch would be appropriate since the proposed work is for a replacement of the stairs that are already there.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD – Mr. Degnan proposes that Dr. Robert LeBow, of Fiske Hill Rd., be asked to be Medical Advisor to the Board of Health in case orders need to be signed. Voted 2 – 0. Mr. Degnan is available for training on satellite phones.

There was a shut-down of municipal water to a significant number of food establishments on August 24th. The food establishments received notice on August 20th, from the Water Department; the Board of Health was not notified officially. One of the establishment purveyors contacted the Board of Health staff; Ron was able to communicate to all of the affected establishments that they could not open without water. The shut-down occurred between 10am and 4pm. The Board of Health will suggest to the Board of Selectmen, that future work be done at night, so as to not affect our commercial base. Any disruption of water service, whether planned or emergency, shall be reported, in advance when possible or as soon as possible, to the Board of Health, so that plans for closure and/or conditional operation may be discussed with affected food establishments.

Voted to adjourn at 9:35 pm
NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 9/21/09 @ 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Rusiecki
Public Health Agent