

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, November 1, 2010 7:00pm

Meeting called to order 7:05pm.

Present: Members; Linda Cocalis, Bob Audet John Degnan and Health Agent, Alyssa Rusiecki.

Appearance: 122 River Rd., septic system upgrade: Present is owner, Mr. Hardy and his attorney Ed Neal. The Board is holding this session in order to address a complaint by neighbor Boutilette at 120 River Rd., asserting that the property lines are incorrect. She was instructed to appear at this meeting with evidence by a surveyor or civil engineer. Boutilette does not appear.

Mr. Hardy provides his point of view. A letter is entered on behalf of Boutilette, who states that eminent taking is the issue. Having no evidence that the property line is incorrect, a motion is made (Dr. Audet) to re-instate the Hardy Disposal System Construction permit; seconded (Mr. Degnan); the Board votes (3 – 0) APPROVED to re-instate the Disposal System Construction Permit.

Appearance: Pay-As-Throw Program (PAYT), DEP Technical Asst., Irene Congdon. Resident Peter Right appears to discuss the difficulties he envisions with the PAYT concept. Mr. Right states that he brings 8 bags of trash to the Landfill per week and that this will be a lot of money if he has to pay per bag. Ms. Congdon states that he may not need to go to the landfill/recycling center so often if he consolidates and recycles. Mr. Right disagrees stating that he doesn't want trash hanging around during the week and this is why he needs to make many trips with partially full bags during each week. Mr. Right thinks that a flat fee would be better. A lengthy discussion ensues.

Mr. Degnan asks what is the goal of PAYT? Ms. Cocalis answers to get more residents to use the Recycling Center and to encourage a reduction of garbage and an increase in recycling. The Board appreciates Mr. Right's point of view and will take his concerns into consideration. Public hearings will be publicized in the new year via the agenda and other media outlets.

Mr. Degnan states that Casella does not provide recycling at his condominium. Ms. Cocalis states that if recycling was done that smaller dumpsters could be provided. The Board will follow-up on this.

Ms. Cocalis states that the Board is awaiting grant-funding from DEP for PAYT start-up money; the Agent concurs, stating that additional funding was requested from DEP.

Mr. Audet states that PAYT, with the goal of increased recycling, will enhance the longevity of the landfill, which will delay the need for the eventual capping of Cell #3. The Agent adds that the municipal recycling program is re-starting again after moving into the newly remodeled Town buildings.

The Board agrees to keep the same sticker fee as is current, \$0 for the first sticker to each household, (designated by one license plate number in the household) and \$20 for each additional sticker thereafter. As of January 1st, 2011 all replacement stickers for secondary vehicles shall be \$20 each.

Ms. Congdon states that the next step shall be to create a recycling committee that helps the limited staffing with support services. Dr. Audet makes a motion, Mr. Degnan seconds to create a recycling committee under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, APPROVED (3- 0).

Old Business: Update the trash hauler regulations, discussion put in abeyance.

New Business: Ms. Cocalis states that a resident brought to her attention that there were items left on Rte 148 marked “free stuff” when in fact the materials should have been brought to the Recycling Center. Ms. Cocalis asked DPW staff to remove the items. There was discussion of sending the offender a letter explaining the use of the recycling center.

The Board members discuss the issue of property-to-property flooding. Ms. Cocalis states that an increase in flowage occurred with the construction of an abutting development and that the Town should have reviewed drainage calculations prior to the construction of the development. Dependent upon the circumstances, this may be a nuisance issue between neighbors or it may relate to the development. Ms. Cocalis referred the matter to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Cocalis observed an unpermitted temporary food event on the Town Common. The participants were asked to obtain a permit in the future.

Agent’s notes/administration: The minutes of October 4th, 2010 were reviewed and approved, via Mr. Degnan motion and Dr. Audet seconding, APPROVED (3 – 0). The minutes of October 18th, 2010 were reviewed and approved via Ms. Cocalis motion and Dr. Audet seconding; (2-0-1). Mr. Degnan abstains as he was not present at this meeting.

Ms. Rusiecki reviews the annual renewal permitting letters with the Board, including letters relative to public swimming pools that did not obtain variances to the Code. The Board agrees with the language in the letters. There are new ADA requirements for pools (lifts and ramps), but the Agent has been informed by the State DPH staff that those are Federal requirements and are not under the inspectional duties of local Boards of Health.

The FY12 budget worksheets are due soon. Pre-opening inspections will occur at “Sal’s Pizza.” Routine inspections and reviews were reported.

Motion to adjourn, Dr. Audet; Mr. Degnan seconds.
ADJOURNED 10:05PM