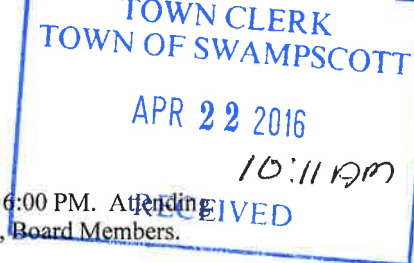


SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES MARCH 16, 2016



The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Dr. Larry Block, and Marianne Hartmann, RN, Board Members.

The minutes of January 13, 2016 and February 10, 2016 were amended and accepted.

LuxeBeautique was scheduled to appear before the Board for a variance of the Body Art Regulations, but did not attend.

The Board discussed the Advisory Regarding Leaf Blowers and Other Lawn Care Power Tools. The advisory calls for a voluntary ban on two (2) stroke gas powered leaf blowers and power tools opting for electric or battery powered machines instead. It is recommended to use respiratory, ear, and eye protection when operating these devices. Dust clouds produced by these tools can remain airborne for hours to even days after using the equipment. These dust clouds contain particles of mold, fungal spores, weed seeds, pollen, lawn pesticides, and animal feces contributing to various respiratory issues.

The Board approved the final draft unanimously.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, suggested copies be made available at the upcoming Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges forum on April 7, 2016. Dr. Block will submit a commentary to the local newspaper.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, informed the Board that she has reached out to the State Epidemiologist Department to book a Tick Talk. As she waits for a response, she has also contacted the Marblehead Board of Health to gauge their interest in cosponsoring this event. Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health, will be asked to communicate with the Marblehead Health Director, Andrew Petty, regarding this matter. If no Epidemiologist is available, Ms. Hartmann will inquire that Dr. Peter Sheckman present the talk.

Alison Oxton, NP, has submitted papers to run for the Board of Health member seat being vacated by Dr. Larry Block. As Ms. Oxton is running unopposed, the Board will invite her to the next meeting to get acquainted.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, began the conversation about the possibility of having a drug take back day. Martha Dansdill stated that the Police Station now has a bin placed in the lobby where residents can dispose of medications they no longer need. As this may be an option many residents are not familiar with, Ms. Dansdill suggested having a robocall go out. It was mentioned that a new Opioid Drug Task Force has been established. Jeff Vaughan and Marianne Hartmann will be members of the committee and will keep the Board of Health apprised of news. The next meeting of the Opioid Drug Task Force will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Police Station.

Dr. Block stated that at the last meeting of the Athletic Field Advisory Committee they were informed of the upcoming forum entitled: Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges presented by Chip Osborne, President of Osborne Organics, to be held at the Swampscott High School Auditorium on Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The Athletic Field Advisory Committee seemed enthusiastic to attend.

Dr. Larry Block asked Marianne Hartmann, RN, if she would be interested in taking his chair at the Athletic Field Advisory Committee at the end of his term. Dr. Block stated that the advisors are committed to caring for town fields in the most organic ways possible. If chemicals need to be used at anytime, parents and athletes will be notified. Dr. Block added that the Committee has pushed for the new hire of two (2) full-time employees for the Department of Public Works (DPW) who will be responsible for maintenance of the town fields. They have added a line item to the budget in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for this purpose. Ms. Hartmann agreed to join the Athletic Field Advisory Committee.

Martha Dansdill and Sarah Pruett have been doing much advertising for the Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges presentation. Flyers have been mailed, newspapers have been contacted and many, many businesses such as Tedesco Country Club, local landscapers, veterinarians, and others have been invited.

Martha Dansdill discussed an e-mail she received regarding a bill (HB646) coming forth to repeal the bottle bill. Big beverage companies and lobbyists are presenting the bill entitled: An Act Improving Recycling in the Commonwealth. One cent (\$.01) of every bottle sold for three (3) years will be used for recycling programs, however, the five cent (\$.05) deposit and return will be eradicated.

Dr. Block asked if the Board of Health would continue the task of banning open fires on the beaches. Open fires have not been permitted on the beaches for the past two (2) years; however, the Board receives many complaints that fires are still being lit and air quality issues arise for the local residents. Fire rings were purchased by the Town but have been returned.

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Martha Dansdill stated that it was suggested to her to circulate a petition to present to the Board of Selectmen. In the past, Ms. Dansdill has appeared before the Board of Selectmen opposing open fires on the beaches. Dr. Block suggested a public hearing in May to discuss the pros and cons of banning open fires on Swampscott beaches. This meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Martha Dansdill will appear at the Wednesday, March 23, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen to advise them of this public hearing and to remind them of the Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges forum.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall on 22 Monument Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.