

SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES APRIL 21, 2016

The Board of Health meeting of Thursday, April 21, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Dr. Larry Block, Board Member, Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health, Mary Duggan, Executive Director of Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District, Tara Cataloni, a nursing student from Salem State University and her son, Cameron.

The minutes of March 16, 2016 were accepted.

Board Member, Marianne Hartmann, RN, was attending an Opioid Fair on the South Shore this evening.

Dr. Larry Block was appointed as the official physician for the Board of Health for the next year; thus making him available to sign standing orders for the Public Health Nurse to administer vaccine .

Mary Duggan, Executive Director of Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (NEMMCWMD), updated the Board of the Best Management Practice Plan proposed for Swampscott for the upcoming season.

Ms. Duggan brought with her a sample of a “dip” from a catch basin at One Salem Street to show the Board the larvae stage of the mosquito. This is the best stage to treat the catch basins as once the larvae pupate they will be too close to adulthood to ingest the larvacide used. Storm drains will be treated with *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis* (BTi) and/or *Bacillus Sphaericus* (BS) which has been formulated to last for a period of at least ninety (90) days.

Barrier treatment was discussed for adult mosquitoes in brush around playing fields. This treatment knocks down the adult population for a few weeks until the larvae come back up. NEMMCWMD will use this tool when requested by the Board of Health. Mary Duggan will glean more information regarding the concentration of the chemicals used for this process and report back to the Board.

NEMMCWMD will also be available to inspect abandoned properties and nuisance sites when requested by the Board.

It was suggested that a list be formulated of the storm drains that have been treated and possibly label them with spray paint to indicate such. Mary Duggan stated that NEMMCWMD has recently hired John Moak to work on a GPS map list for this purpose.

Since Winthrop had two (2) human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) last year, surveillance will be increased in the area; this will include Swampscott. The Board made it clear that they have only approved of spraying once in the last fifteen (15) years after they were petitioned by a neighborhood inundated with nuisance mosquitoes. NEMMCWMD would rather use preventative measures, utilizing organic treatments, to fight the mosquito population as opposed to chemical spraying.

Ms. Duggan stated that she will continue to work closely with Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health, and Gino Cresta, Director of Public Works, to ensure that Swampscott will receive what the Town deems most valuable to the health and well being of its residents. Other key components in communications will be reports generated for the Board of Health indicating which locations have been treated, which chemicals have been used, and when the treatments were applied. These reports will also include material safety data sheets (MSDS).

Mary Duggan stated that NEMMCWMD will be changing their surveillance traps in the future to capture more species. This will increase the total number of insects caught, the variation of species identified, and the array of diseases detected.

Ms. Duggan left at 6:38 PM

The Board discussed the *Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges* forum agreeing that the next steps are to keep in communication with the Athletic Field Advisory Committee. Sarah Pruettt is looking into getting a plot of land for a pilot program. Ms. Pruettt would apply for a grant from the Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) for this purpose.

Dr. Block stated that he has e-mailed Josh Field, Chairman of the Athletic Field Advisory Committee, proposing that Marianne Hartmann, RN, become a voting member of the committee in his place. Mr. Field will bring this suggestion to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Martha Dansdill participated in the Material Recycle Facility (MRF) webinar regarding single stream recycling. The Department of Environmental Protection was reaching out to communities in Massachusetts to make single stream materials as pure as possible. The DEP suggested no Styrofoam or plastic bags be mixed in the waste stream. Plastic bags cause the line to clog thus stopping production while employees clear the jams manually. This is a time consuming and costly practice.

Jeff Vaughan spoke of a drug take back project that he and Marianne Hartman, RN, are working on. Prolific social media coverage would focus on senior citizens to dispose of unused prescription medications at the Swampscott Police Station on Memorial Day. This project would get the word out that the kiosk is available year round. The event would be advertised on social media, in the local newspapers and by reverse 911 robocall. The next Opioid Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2016.

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The market for recyclable goods is down. Caraustar offered to keep the same price for co-mingled recycled goods, but dropped the price of paper from thirty dollars (\$30.00) at ton to five dollars (\$5.00) per ton. If they cannot negotiate a better price with Caraustar, Sharon Kishida Byrne and Jeff Vaughan will also speak with John Tognazzi of Hiltz Waste and possibly Johnny Gold of JRM.

Mission Bay restaurant will likely open in the next month or two.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Marblehead Health Garage on Tower Way in Marblehead.

Martha Dansdill spoke of a complaint she received that a contractor on Redington Street was power sanding a home over the weekend. As the Health Inspector was on vacation, Ms. Dansdill dropped off a copy of the regulations and spoke with the homeowner asking that they have the contractor stop power sanding until they can obtain the necessary permit.

Martha Dansdill informed the Board that she has received a grant from Wheelabrator in the amount of seven hundred and thirty dollars (\$730.00) for mercury recycling. This money will be used to purchase reusable grocery bags that will be filled with inserts of the leaf blower advisory and the spring alert flyer and handed out at the Farmer's Market on either June 12, 2016 or June 19, 2016.

Ms. Dansdill made suggestions and edits to the links on the Health Department website. Jeff Vaughan will relay those changes to Michele Karas in IT.

It was stated that Marianne Hartmann, RN, commented via e-mail that there has been some talk on social media regarding open fires on beaches. Although many have expressed their opinions and concerns to the Board of Selectmen these statements have not been publicly acknowledged. The Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the health, safety and nuisance issues of these open burning and beach fires. Comments from this meeting will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board requested to get a copy of the Earth Removal Aggregate Industries contract before the beginning of the contract cycle.

Martha Dansdill thanked Dr. Larry Block for his nearly fifteen (15) years of service to the Board of Health and the residents of Swampscott noting some of the most recent achievements and accomplishments. After stating that it was with pride and pleasure to serve on the Board with him she presented him with a small token of appreciation.

Dr. Block thanked Martha Dansdill for originally recruiting him for the position acknowledging that there has been a learning curve for him and that he has tried to teach others what he has acquired. Dr. Block insists that he will continue to be an active participant from the sidelines.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Public Library followed by a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM to discuss open burning and beach fires.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.