

SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES MAY 19, 2016

The Board of Health meeting of Thursday, May 19, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Marianne Hartmann, RN and Alison Oxtan, RN, MSN, Board Members, and Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health.

The minutes of April 20, 2016 and May 16, 2016 were tabled.

Martha Dansdill was unanimously re-elected as Chairwoman.

Martha Dansdill welcomed Alison Oxtan, RN, MSN, as the newest member to the Swampscott Board of Health. Ms. Dansdill stated that she wished Ms. Oxtan had had the opportunity to meet Dr. Larry Block before he left the Board as he is a unique person who did much to advance the Public Health interest of the community and bring the Board into the 21st century.

Chairwoman Dansdill suggested that, at her leisure, Ms. Oxtan may wish to become familiar with the regulations that the Board covers. These regulations are available on the Health Department website or in the office.

It was explained that whenever two (2) Board of Health members meet it is considered a quorum so, unless it is posted as a meeting in advance, they should not discuss any Board business. This also applies to e-mails. Alison Oxtan, RN, MSN, was informed that there is a Public Health webinar or one (1) day conference that she will have to attend for a Board of Health certificate. Jeff Vaughan, Public Health Director, will notify her when the course is next available.

Martha Dansdill explained that Swampscott is part of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (NEMMCWMD) a coalition of Northeastern Massachusetts communities who share resources in managing the spread of disease carrying mosquitoes. Swampscott is a no-spray community and treats these insects by larviciding. Funding is paid by community taxes off the State Cherry Sheet.

Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health, stated that all Food Inspectors and Health Agents received an update earlier today regarding the switching from the 1999 Federal Food Code to the 2013 version. There have been minor changes in the temperatures and processing procedures. Come fall, the North Shore Shared Public Health Services Program will ask the local Boards of Health to vote to adopt this code.

Mr. Vaughan stated that beach sampling will begin on Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Director Vaughan explained that the beaches are tested weekly for high levels of bacteria. If the level is too high, the water is tested again the next day and, if necessary, the beach is closed to the public until the bacteria level rescinds. For Ms. Oxtan's benefit, Martha Dansdill noted that in 2009 Swampscott petitioned to become a "No Discharge Zone" so that boats and ships would be prevented from discharging bacteria and toxic contaminants into the waterways surrounding the Town.

As members of the Opioid Task Force, Jeff Vaughan and Marianne Hartman, RN, are working to promote the drug take back program at the Police Station. There is always a kiosk in the Police Department lobby where residents can dispose of non-liquid prescription drugs, but most residents are unaware of it. Mr. Vaughan has dropped off flyers at the Senior Center promoting a Memorial Day Weekend Drop-Off Event while Ms. Hartmann will send information to the local media.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016. There will be no opportunity to recycle Styrofoam this year as the company that disposes of it (Refoamit in Centennial Park, Peabody, MA) has gone out of business. Also noted, Ethical Electronic disposal has become very costly this year. Martha Dansdill will send an announcement to the Swampscott Reporter.

The Minimum Legal Sales Age for Tobacco will increase to age twenty-one (21) as of June 1, 2016. Thus far, one-hundred fourteen (114) communities in Massachusetts have adopted this initiative.

The FDA is proposing regulations to increase the age of using tanning beds to eighteen (18). Swampscott Board of Health has always supported the "Ban the Burn" effort and has set regulations against minors using tanning beds without parental consent. Those who use tanning beds are fifty-nine percent (59%) more likely to develop melanoma (skin cancer).

Mission on the Bay restaurant has opened. Although, the ice cream and roof sections are not opened as yet.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall on 22 Monument Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.