SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, September 2, 2015 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chair, Dr. Larry Block and Marianne Hartmann, RN, Board Members, and Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health.

The minutes of July 22, 2015 were tabled.

Dr. Block stated that the Athletic Field Advisory Committee (AFAC) voted unanimously to make all athletic fields predominantly pesticide free. In the event that pesticides need to be used, the parents of each child using the field will be notified by phone or e-mail. Also, the Town Administrator, the AFAC, the Health Director and the Recreational Director will receive a forty-eight (48) hour notification prior to the use of any pesticides or herbicides. Furthermore, yellow flags will be posted at the entrance to the field or park for seventy-two (72) hours with no use for the first twenty-four (24) hours. Material Data Sheets will also be provided to the Board of Health for each pesticide or herbicide used.

Martha Dansdill thanked Dr. Block for being a vital part of this process. Dr. Block stated that he will remain on the Athletic Field Advisory Committee for another year.

It was also noted that the City of Springfield is looking to go totally organic on all their public fields. Marblehead has adopted this practice as well.

Here is the Recommendation from the Athletic Field Advisory Committee (AFAC):

**Recommendation from the Athletic Field Advisory Committee (AFAC)**

Whereas:

* The AFAC has been granted oversight in the management of all athletic fields and parks.
* Safeguarding children's health with regard to chemical exposure is promoted by the Children's and Family Protection Act of 2001 (333 CMR 14.00), and by protocols established by the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals and by the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau.

Therefore AFAC is making the following recommendation:

* All athletic fields and parks will be routinely cared for using no herbicides or pesticides.
* The Department of Public Works, or any outside vendor hired to maintain the athletic fields will be required to submit to the AFAC and to the Board of Health, a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of all products (including non-pesticide/herbicide fertilizers and treatments) applied to the field or park, ***prior*** to its use.
* If a situation occurs requiring a pesticide or herbicide to be applied, the use of such a material may only occur after notification of the Town Administrator, the AFAC, the Health Director, and the Recreational Director. Such notification must occur at least 48 hours prior to the application.
* In the event a pesticide or herbicide is to be applied, the parents of every child using the field being treated must be notified by phone or email, by a system established by the director of the sport being played. Parents need to be told what product is being applied, and when the application is expected to occur.
* Once a pesticide or herbicide is applied, yellow flags must be posted at the entrance to the field or park for 72 hours. The field or park cannot be used for organized children’s activities for the first 24 hours.
* This recommendation, with its requirements, will be incorporated into the permitting process for athletic field use.

(Final Draft, August 19, 2015)

Martha Dansdill mentioned that she and Dr. Larry Block attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting regarding open fires and burning. Ms. Dansdill presented the Selectmen with health and safety concerns especially regarding the ground level smoke and how it affects air quality causing resident with respiratory issues great distress.

Previously, Ms. Dansdill has met with Town Administrator, Thomas Younger, to discuss the residents’ complaints and health concerns. She has asked residents who have issues with beach fires to submit an e-mail with comments +--to Mr. Younger and Naomi Dreeben, Selectwoman, Chair.

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Currently, there is a directive that fires on the beaches be banned. All beach fire permits have been suspended until 2016.

Dr. Block suggested that the Board of Health draft a regulation to ban smoking and open fires on all beaches. The Board has received numerous complaints about both of these concerns and Dr. Block believes these issues should be dealt with together. There are twenty-three (23) communities in Massachusetts that have banned open burning fires.

Martha Dansdill will speak with George Allen, an air quality scientist, for more information. Chairwoman Dansdill will also continue to attend the Selectmen’s meetings representing public health concerns related to ground level wood smoke.

The discussion was tabled.

Martha Dansdill and Marianne Hartmann, RN, attended the Farmer’s Market on Sunday, August 30, 2015. They handed out two hundred (200) reusable cloth bags full of information about recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Day. These bags were purchased with grant monies from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The women also exchanged compact fluorescent light bulbs for LED lamps in order to educate the public about toxic mercury a component of CFLs. These bulbs were purchased with monies received from the button battery recycling fund. Residents expressed interest in more yard waste collections and a recycling program for alkaline batteries.

The Board discussed the possibility of increasing the age of tobacco sales from eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21). Peabody recently implemented this regulation making them the seventy-fifth (75th) community in Massachusetts to do so. Peabody included all nicotine delivery products in their regulation.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, would like to know how many smokers fall within the range of eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21) in the town or the percentage as compared to the rest of the State.

It is the feeling of the Board that twenty-one (21) year olds are further removed from the peer pressure of High School and the temptation to buy tobacco for younger peers.

The Board will invite Joyce Redford, Program Director of the North Shore/Cape Ann Area Boards of Health Collaborative Tobacco Control Program, and Ken Farbstein of Tobacco Free Massachusetts to the next meeting to discuss this topic thoroughly.

Martha Dansdill handed out two (2) flyers recently published by the MA Department of Public Health. The first was entitled: Eating Fish Safely and addressed the concerns of mercury in fish and the effects it has on pregnant women. The flyer is published in six (6) different languages.

The second flyer was entitled: How to Protect Your Baby from BPA explaining how to reduce a baby’s exposure to BPA in plastics and the consequences of this chemicalto the health of babies.

It was suggested to distribute these flyers to the OB/Gyn of the North Shore and Family Doctors offices on Paradise Road.

Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health reported to the Board that beach sampling has come to an end for the summer. He has tested the six (6) beaches in town for the past thirteen (13) weeks with only two (2) needs to retest. Both of these instances happened after excessive rain events. Upon retesting the following day, the levels were back to normal.

Other points of interest touched on by the Public Health Director: 1) There was an increase in the rat & bat population sightings reported by residents. 2) The Cheeburger, Cheeburger establishment has closed. 3) A new craft beer establishment will be opening in Vinnin Square. 4) There will be an assisted living housing development going up next to Marshall’s in Vinnin Square. 5) The apartment complex across from Whole Foods on Paradise Road is nearly complete. 6) Walgreen’s may move its location to the opposite side of Paradise Road so that they can put in a drive-thru window.

Mr. Vaughan also reported that after a compliance check two (2) violations were issued. Alltown/Mobile and Walgreen’s have both received a second offense within a sixty (60) month timeframe. Therefore, each establishment will receive a two-hundred dollar ($200.00) fine and one (1) week suspension of their permit to sell tobacco products. Suspensions will begin of September 10, 2016.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor conference room of the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.