

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 by Chairman, Richard Desjardins. Also in attendance were; Member, Al Holman; Member, Richard Robinson; and Asst. Public Health Supervisor, Diane Tiernan.

Motion one – Al made a motion to approve of the meeting minutes from 1/23/14. Richard R. seconded the motion and Richard D. made the motion unanimous. Minutes were approved.

Board reviewed the grant for an internship submitted by the town nurse.

Board discussed the wages for the town nurse and asst. public health supervisor, with a 5 hour per week increase. Richard R., stated he still does not feel that the town nurse requires additional hours and he does not support the request. Al and Richard D. disagreed and stated if the new town hall hours will be five days per week, than the hours need to increase.

Board discussed the upcoming contract for trash and recycling. Diane stated the RFP document should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

7:30 p.m. Lindsay and Jennifer Doyle arrived to discuss youth tobacco control. Lindsay stated she belongs to SADD through school and would like to discuss teens and tobacco use. She stated she has been pursuing different ways to make changes to prevent teen smoking and noticed some towns are raising the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 19 or even 21. Richard R. stated he has not seen evidence that it will make a difference. He feels it would be more effective to try to teach the students the adverse effects of tobacco. Al did not feel changing the age would have a lot of impact. Most kids at 18 are no longer in school.

Jennifer stated that the town of Needham increased the age and saw a 50% decrease in smokers. Board felt if those statistics were true, there had to be more that contributed to such a huge reduction. Richard D. stated he feels it would be more effective to have tobacco stings at all the Upton establishments that sell tobacco. Al stated we would have to contact the police department to see if they could assist us as this was previously performed through the state but those services are no longer available.

Al stated raising the age to purchase tobacco is a very difficult dilemma. In order to be effective, you would have to have every other town surrounding Upton cooperate as well. Otherwise the teens will simply drive to the next town to make their purchase. Richard R. felt this is something that should be pursued through the state level to make it state wide not just sporadic towns. You could pursue support from the local level, but it should be done through the state reps. You will probably receive pushback from the establishments that will lose up to three years of business and the state relies heavily on tobacco tax. Richard D. stated we need to give this issue more thought. How do you tell a serviceman that has just returned from service that he's now not old enough to buy cigarettes?

Al stated he feels there are other ways to accomplish the tobacco problem rather than increasing the age to purchase. There are other major concerns in town that involve drinking and heroin that require immediate attention. Jennifer stated studies have shown that people who smoke are more likely to do drugs. Al stated he is not opposed to discussing it further. Richard R. and Richard D. stated they are not in agreement to raising the age to purchase tobacco. They agreed we could look at other avenues to help with the fight of teen tobacco use. Lindsay stated that they did a survey at Nipmuc and found that 24.7 % of students smoke and 84% of those students got their cigarettes through someone who was 18 or older. Right now there are students in school who are 18 and willing to purchase the cigarettes for the younger students. She is looking to raise the age higher than high school level. Even if we change the age to 19 you take the buyer out of the school. Al stated he understands the issue and agrees going to 19 could assist with the problem. He also feels however, that we cannot legislate behavior. Richard D. stated the Board will consider it further and get back to Lindsay. Al stated he would really be excited about a school program that discusses the problem issues of drugs and alcohol. These are life ending issues.

8:02 p.m. , Lindsay and Jennifer thanked the Board and left.

Richard D. stated he attended the "After Action Meeting" with DEP, Clean Harbors, GURR, and town officials regarding the styrene spill at the rail yard. Although all departments acted quickly and effectively, there were some issues with Clean Harbors wanting to use their own equipment and not the equipment on site. DEP instructed them on the correct procedures. The rail yard employees performed exactly as required in such an emergency. Richard stated he also informed the emergency personnel that in the future they are to contact the BOH or its members directly and not leave a message on Diane's home answering machine.

Board discussed electronic signatures on all future permits now that the town has gone to electronic permitting. Board agreed that Diane could submit the permit requestors information at a meeting and once approved print the permit with electronic signatures.

A food permit renewal request for Tre Serele, 1 Merriam Way was reviewed.

Motion two - Al made a motion to approve of the food permit. Richard R. seconded the motion and Richard D. made the motion unanimous. Permit was approved.

An Installers permit request for Paul Kuczinski.73 W. Main Street, was reviewed.

Motion three - Al made a motion to approve of the installers permit. Richard R. seconded the motion and Richard D. made the motion unanimous. Permit was approved.

The town report for Animal control Officer was reviewed. Due to the fact that the A. C. officer changed in the middle of the year, Diane wrote up a small report for the position.

Motion four – Richard R. made a motion to approve of the report and Al seconded the motion. Richard D. made the motion unanimous. Report was approved.

Request for extensions of perc and deephole testing for East Street -Burke and a lot behind 237 North Street – Clifford were reviewed.

Motion 5 - Al made a motion to approve of a six month extension. Richard R. seconded the motion and Richard D. made the motion unanimous. Extensions were approved. No further extensions will be issued on these permits.

Board discussed the recent actions of the Conservation Commission. It appears they are reaching out to the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control program to get information pertaining to future mosquito control in MA. The Board is questioning why they are doing this after shooting down the BOH article to join the program last year. Al suggested we inform the Selectmen of this issue, as they are an appointed Board in opposition to us.

Mail reviewed.

Board agreed to continue to discuss youth tobacco issues and to take further action with the Upton Police Dept. It is important that if further action is taken with the cooperation of the Police Dept., the information remains confidential. The Board will have to further debate the issue of raising the age to purchase tobacco in Upton.

8:51 p.m. Al made a motion to adjourn, Richard R. seconded the motion and Richard R. made the motion unanimous. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tiernan
Asst. Public Health Supervisor