

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

October 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Tom Klem (TK) chair, members Cynthia C. Hill (CH) and Elisabeth Brewer, M.D. Also present were Julia Junghanns, Director of Public Health and Patti White, Department Assistant.

7:05 p.m. Public Comment-There were none

7:05 p.m. Sanitarian/Health Agent Position- discussion and interview- Position candidate- Nathaniel Grondin has come to meet the Board. Julia is advising the board of what the plan for training Nate and the schooling that would be needed to get the licenses for the position (Registered Sanitarian and Soil Evaluator). Nate presented to the board his interest in the job and his background, and education.

7:45 p.m. Green Burials- Discussion regarding regulations with Resident Rebecca Furie (RF).

Rebecca has brought some information to the Board regarding the history of burial, embalming, cemetery concrete vaults, etc. Julia has some information regarding the differences between private cemeteries and municipal cemeteries. Wayland town cemeteries (South, North and Lakeview) have regulations that require concrete vaults. There are considerations for protecting water sources that are near the cemeteries. Julia spoke with DPH and was advised that BOH has no jurisdiction over a private cemetery regarding green burials. Julia also spoke with Town Counsel on this and the same information was advised. MGL does not prohibit green burials. There are state regulations for funeral homes that must still be followed. The BOH must approve a location of a new or expanded cemetery, review of site locations with public health concerns in mind.

RF: can we look at forming a committee to look into locations for possible private green burials?

Sander Rikleen (SR) : JCAM – the statute required the BOH approval for cemetery expansion, perc testing of the soil to be sure they were not directly upon wetlands/watertable, certain distance from septic zone II and that their irrigation wells were approved locations. There was a need for a Town Meeting Vote to establish a new cemetery.

Stan Kaplan (SK)- Beit Olam East Cemetery- Concord Road-is a cemetery that would accommodate this type of green burial- Jewish tradition is to be buried without embalming in a plain pine box for quick breakdown. Concrete liners are required. Beit Olam East Cemetery is looking for permission to allow burial without a concrete liner. Just Plain pine casket without nails.

RF: agreement with Beit Olam East, or form a new cemetery or home burial? Laws of MA allow families to handle the processing of the body for a burial.

SK: Licensed funeral homes are responsible for the transportation of the body over public roads to the place of burial

SK: Can a cemetery that has been approved by BOH for location have burials without concrete liners?

SR: When the cemetery was permitted, SC (Steve Calichman) asked them to use concrete vaults, and they complied, but it was not officially written into any requirements. There was testing done and they had to be sure the cemetery was located outside a Zone II. Beit Olam East is a higher ground than Beit Olam Cemetery, and they are asking just for the East Cemetery to permit Green burials (without concrete vaults)

Mike Lowery, Chair DPW, Surface Water committee. - He would like to see a study done of the directional flow of ground waters . Concern is for movement of chemicals or disease from the body into the soils and water.

EB: can we invite someone from Mt Auburn Cemetery; they have been doing green burials, and may be able to provide information

JJ: the difference is that Wayland has public wells and is not on MWRA (Boston water comes from the Quabbin) and so the ground waters must be protected.

SK: would like to bring this back to the Board with additional information. TK: please bring information to the office for review by JJ.

The Board has questions regarding communicable diseases, cancer, drugs, treatments, not natural body parts (hip, knee replacements-

Kurt Tramposh- looking at cemeteries over years, has questions regarding siting of cemeteries in town. Kurt had concerns about the new Biet Olam East and the expansion of the North Cemetery, regarding the Capture Zone and ground water. MA Cemeteries are EPA list, civil war cemeteries where Arsenic was used for embalming? Parts of caskets contain certain metals. Questions regarding certain cancer chemo drugs that are not breaking down. Vaults are not permanently sealed, they do breakdown.

8:30 p.m. 23 Sears Road- Deed restriction for addition- General Contractor Ken Chase- Owner Paul and Emily Strehle

The previous owners had soil testing and a design done for a 5 bedroom septic. The system has not been installed yet. The new owners are looking to do an addition off the back of the house to enlarge the kitchen and family room. The second floor of the addition would be a new Master Bedroom that would comprise the 5th bedroom. The existing septic system would be abandoned as part of the building addition as the septic tank would be in the area of the foundation.

TK: Motion to approve the request for a 5 bedroom deed restriction at 23 Sears Road for the renovation as proposed plans dated received September 23, 2014.

Ch: second vote 3-0 all in favor.

8: 45 p.m. Concussion and Artificial Turf Discussion- time Magazine article and Artificial Turf article
CH: School committee is beginning to discuss Concussion and Sports and possible rewriting of the School policies for Concussion and Sports brought forward by Malcom Astly.

Concussion is in the news, with regard to all the information about Concussion and Brain Injury from the profession sports. There has been an article in Wayland Voters Network that some parents are pushing to ban football and other certain contact sports from Wayland Schools.

The School Committee is not required to get input from the BOH, but with 2 sitting doctors on the Board, they would have important input for their discussion.

EB: this has been in the news and there are new findings coming out and it is evolving. We are an available resource, and would like to be involved.

CH: Can we send a memo to the School Committee? It would be good for us to send a letter before they have their final decision or draft of new policy.

Something like; "The spirit of board's working together, the board of health working with the School Committee, we request the BOH be involved in the drafting of your new concussion policy, as we see this as an issue of Public Health." Julia and Tom will work to draft a letter to the School Committee.

Artificial Turf

The question is regarding the "black dots" in the turf and the recent news of the high number of cancers in Goalties, that are diving on the fields, and there is ingestion in mouth and nose. The black dots are from ground

up tires used to fill in between the “grass”. Tires are comprised of many different substances and there is no testing done of the crumb rubber.

Tom Sciacca and Kurt Tramposh were big opponents to the construction of the Artificial Turf Field back in 2007. TS and KT were also worried on the impact of the field on the Town Wells, at that time there was not all the information we now have regarding the capture zone for the town wells. The drainage system for the new high school was set to direct the run off away from the wells, but TS believes that the drainage is going directly into the ground water. In 2010 the Wellhead Committee did a capture zone study was done for all the Town Wells; the study showed that 1/3 of the drainage from the fields goes directly into the ground.

The concern is not just for the chemicals from the turf from the field, but also from the persons on the fields, sweat, blood, etc. from the players, etc. Fields are sterilized over a period of time, we do not know if this field has been treated.

JJ has passed out BOH minutes from June 3, 2008 when Tom Sciacca brought to the BoH the issue of the heat/temperature concern for the players on the turf field and the associated issues of dehydration.

There is also now a higher issue of injury, as the field “plays faster” but there is also the increased number of injuries, because the grass does not move with the players when they stop or turn, and there has been an increase in knee injuries.

TS: Recreation Commission is looking to construct another turf field at some point, either at the high school or possibly at the site of the DPW garage when it is torn down.

KT: another issue with Turf fields is that the black dots become compacted and the field “hardens” over time, increasing injury to players. Wellesley did a field using a coconut based “filling” as opposed to the black dots. The coconut base is biodegradable and does need to be refilled.

Tom- draft letter to School Committee, and continue discussion regarding Turf and possibly have a discussion with the Rec commission regarding the turf fields.

9:20 P. M. Tobacco 21- Contiguous Town letter asking for support- Dr. Lester Hartman.

We received an email from Dr. Hartman with a format for a letter that the town can use to write to neighboring town informing them that we have rewritten our tobacco regulations and have decided to raise the Wayland purchase age to 21.

TK will draft a letter that we can send out to the neighboring towns advising them of our decision to raise the age of purchase to 21 and asking them to consider raising their ages also.

9:30 p.m. General Business- The Director’s Report has been reviewed and bills have been paid.

Minutes of March 17, 2014 and April 23, 2014

TK: Motion to approve minutes of 3/17/14 and 4/23/14 as submitted. Ch: second vote 3-0 all in favor.

November dates—State election is on 11/4 , Veterans Day holiday 11/11 and thanksgiving 11/27

HRS- did we have discussion regarding their providing updates and periodic numbers. Check minutes from past meeting regarding that.

Date of next meeting: November 10th.

9:50 p.m. TK: motion to adjourn EB: second vote 3-0

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
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