



**Town of Boxford**  
**Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health**

**May 25, 2016**

**Present:** Hans Jeppesen, Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan  
Kendell Longo, Kristin Kwiatek

**Absent:** Heather Forand

**Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Hans Jeppesen**

**Crumb Rubber Testing**

Chris Huntress from Huntress Associates, Inc was present for the crumb rubber testing discussion. He explained the testing procedures outlined by the Board that were carried out by Alpha Analytical. The first set of samples taken from the crumb rubber before being delivered to Boxford were tested and the results were non-detect. However, the second set of samples being used for comparison were inadvertently extracted using the wrong method. The second set of samples were re-extracted using the correct method and the results were non-detect. A letter was written to Mr. Huntress depicting the error and has been submitted to the Board.

**A. Constan** stated the lab accidentally used a method that has a much lower detection level with higher sensitivity. It was due to the extraction method. **A. Constan** commented on the 3580A method the Board chose because of the detection limits. **D. Taylor** suggested four decisions the Board could make. 1) Do nothing and let the field construction proceed. 2) Reject the material based on the carcinogens. 3) Ask for more testing. 4) Accept the material with written warnings and limitations.

**D. Taylor** would like to see the board write a letter accepting the material but with recommendations letting the public know that there is not enough information on the product. **A. Constan** disagreed based on other crumb rubber studies. There was no evidence of unacceptable risk to humans. **H. Jeppesen** asked if there is something over time as the crumb rubber breaks down that can cause leaching. **A. Constan** mentioned a study in Norway with similar polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that the Board is looking at and the release rate results were less than one percent. **D. Taylor** said he was more concerned with the long term chronic effects. He stated there is no proof that the crumb rubber is safe for long term use. **A. Constan** disagreed and stated that the amount of exposure and release in chronic toxicity studies comes out to less than one in a million. **D. Taylor** did not agree and said there is no evidence that the field is unsafe for kids to play on but it could affect them in the long term. **A. Constan** did not agree that there is a potential health risk and also disagreed with scare tactics in a letter stating long term effects. **D. Taylor** stated it is the Boards responsibility to educate the town. **A. Constan** agreed but then stated there is a difference between the words chronic and accumulative. **D. Taylor** said that there is need to explain that there is a potential problem. **D. Taylor** drafted a letter for the board to discuss and amend as agreed upon. **H. Jeppesen** stated letter to be discussed paragraph by paragraph. **D. Taylor** explained if agreed upon that he will make amendments and present a new draft. The board agreed on changes in wording throughout the letter. The third paragraph was discussed at length. **A. Constan** disagreed with the wording of potential and chronic effects. **D. Taylor** stated that the letter should be sent out before the field is constructed. The Board continued with changes in the letter. The Board discussed artificial turf temperatures at length and reached an agreement in the wording. Upon examining the section of the letter regarding the Board of Health Action, **A. Constan** suggested a separate letter to be written on the topic of heat stress. **D. Taylor** mentioned to keep a warning in the letter regarding elevated temperatures. **R. Fahrner** stated the importance of signage discouraging infants and toddlers being on the turf. **H. Jeppesen** asked for signage at Boxford Commons to be put on the next agenda. **D. Taylor** suggested to move for tentative approval of the modified letter pending final review from the Chair. **D. Taylor** stated the letter can be issued quickly and put in the record to authorize the use of the material.

**D. Taylor motioned** to have the letter accepted as amended, seconded by **R Fahrner**. Approved **unanimously**.

### **Action Items**

Letter written to Boxford Permanent Building Committee and carbon copied to Board of Selectmen, the Athletic Association, and the Recreation committee regarding crumb rubber to be revised and signed by **H. Jeppesen**.

### **Adjourn**

The next meeting date will be determined and with no further business **H. Jeppesen** asked for a **motion** to adjourn. All were **unanimously** in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek  
Minutes Secretary



























































































