



Town of Boxford

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

Aug 19, 2020

NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE - REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

6:00PM

Virtual Participation Only

**This meeting will be audio and video recorded
To View: FIOS #39; Comcast #22; BCATv website
For Directions to Participate via Zoom Click Here
ZOOM Meeting ID: 938 7349 4812**

Present: Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Heather Forand, Hans Jeppesen, Kendell Longo, Lance Cluster, Susan Inman, Kristin Kwiatek, Natasha Grigg, Jessica Grigg, Nancy walker

Absent: A. Constan

Meeting opened at 6:00PM by D. Taylor

Roll call indicated that the following members of the Board of Health were present remotely: **D. Taylor, R. Fahrner, H. Forand, H. Jeppesen.**

Announcement

Household hazardous waste collection day will be held Saturday October 24, 2020 at Masconomet Highschool.

Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the July 15, 2020 meeting. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to accept the minutes, **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Bills

D. Taylor reviewed with the Board the current bills payable. The Board of Health approved all bills payable unanimously with a roll call vote:

VNA Care: \$675.00 accepted unanimously
Waste Management: \$6,459.57 accepted unanimously
Waste Management: \$54,670.32 accepted unanimously
JRM Recycling: \$5,572.80 accepted unanimously
Air conditioner Recycling Center: \$382.98
Veolia hazardous recycling materials: \$791.39
Dave's Scrap Tire Removal: \$592.00
W.B. Mason: \$36.98 accepted unanimously

Health Agent Report

K. Longo stated that Boxford currently has 2 active Covid-19 cases, 50 people in recovery.

The department had complaints of blue algae in Stiles Pond and have received photos it from a resident. The photos are being forwarded to DPH who feels there is not enough of it yet to put out an advisory so it is currently being monitored. **D. Taylor** stated that it has to become very thick to become a health hazard and it is more of a nuisance that produces a mild toxin. **K. Longo** stated that any concerns from residents do get passed along to DPH.

Camp Stepping Stone extended their season in which the Board approved to use that campus through September.

There is a flu clinic planned for September 2nd at the Council on Aging and the Board received the details for review. **K. Longo** also mentioned that the news reported all students returning to the classrooms must have a flu vaccination by December 31, 2020.

K. Longo stated that Jim Scanlan is in the process of reviewing the plans for the Toll property and we waiting to get his notes.

Mosquito Spraying

D. Taylor began the discussion to bring up to date the issue of spraying on private property. The plan in place has not been changed. Every February the Board discusses the management plan and then discusses it with the District to come up with an operating plan which then can be accepted by the State. The importance of the plan is that the new law states that a Town can opt of aerial spraying if they have a management plan acceptable to the DPH. Currently in place is barrier spraying on school or ball fields with an insecticide which has to be ordered by a special meeting by the Board of Health only when there is a positive West Nile or EEE mosquito in Boxford. The other type of spraying is Town wide roadside or selected area spraying which has only happened once in thirty years. It has been proposed that the District can spray private properties if the resident wants it and the Board allows it. The discussion opened with **R. Fahrner** asking if there was a process to have Boxford's plan reviewed by DPH. **D. Taylor** stated it would never be reviewed unless the Board was fighting for something. **R. Fahrner** said he would like clarity on what is an acceptable plan so not to miss out on something the State might impose on the Town. **R. Fahrner** said he does not have enough information at this time about private spraying and he would like

to hear from NEMMC and that it is owed to the Town to hear it first hand on how that would work. **H. Forand** stated that a lot of residents are spraying regardless so whether it be the money already spent to NEMMC or it be private companies in which it would be unknown chemicals. If that many people are spraying, why not utilize the service and at least know what is being sprayed in town and can be respectful to neighbors and have some constraints. **H. Jeppesen** stated that he would like to hear from NEMMC and give the Town an opportunity as well. **R. Fahrner** would like to know what would be the advantage over a private hire and would also like to know NEMMC latest information on spraying and preventing disease. **D. Taylor** stated that the sprayers have never been able to produce any data on efficacy of spraying. **D. Taylor** stated that the private spraying companies are more apt to properly spray as opposed to the District who during emergency sprayers do not follow the label. **D. Taylor** stated that he is against nuisance spraying.

Viewers were given the opportunity to speak. Resident Natasha Grigg and Jessica Grigg both spoke on the topic of discussion.

R. Fahrner mentioned the reason he would like the NNEMC to be part of a Board meeting is to collect more information from them.

COVID -19

The Town is currently at 52 cases. Masconomet will be starting classes fully remote. Boxford Elementary schools will start out fully remote and then change to hybrid when they feel the time is right. Middleton schools will be full attendance and Topsfield will be completely remote. **H. Forand** asked the Board what were the schools asking of them other than what previous recommendations were given. **D. Taylor** said that they would like the Board to look at their opening plan and give guidance in which the Board will provide at the standpoint of health concerns.

Board Elections

R. Fahrner motioned to nominate **D. Taylor** as Chairman of the Board of Health, **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

Adjourn 7:35pm

With no further business, on a **motion** made by **H. Forand**, second by **R. Fahrner**, the Board of Health **voted** unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek
Minutes Secretary