

Board Members

Eric Lindstrom, Chair
Jack Mill, Vice Chair
Khalid Abdi, Member
Katherine Tonelli, Member
Leanne Harris, Member
Beth Hallal, Agent
Michelle Cahoon, Secretary



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TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

Date/Time of Meeting: 10/4/2022

Location of Meeting: Via ZOOM

Committee Members Roll ☐ Eric Lindstrom (C) ☐ Jack Mill (VC) ☐ Khalid Abdi,

Call and in Attendance: ☐ Katherine Tonelli ☐ Leanne Harris

Visitors Present: Olivia Dufour (Tobacco Control, MA)
Hiyam Jabour (Mobil Gas, Medway)

Town Employees Present: Beth Hallal, Kelly OBrien, Michelle Cahoon

Call to Order: 5:33pm

Minutes Review: August 30th, 2021, APPROVED with correction. Correction should read under agenda item 2 that town employees do not fall under the oversight of the Board of Health. Town employees fall under the oversight of the Town Administrator.

Agenda Item 1:
Tobacco Sting

Ms. Dufour introduced herself to the Board, explaining her title and responsibilities as Tobacco Control Manager. Ms. Dufour shared that trained inspectors visited several businesses within the town of Medway and two establishments were caught selling tobacco to minors. Ms. Jabour, owner of the Mobil Gas Station in Medway explained to the Board that the employee responsible for selling tobacco to the minor felt overwhelmed at the time of sale; returning to the U.S. from her home country.

Ms. Jabour stated that the employee apologizes for her oversight and this would not happen again. Ms. Jabour also noted it is hard to find employees in today's current climate and does not want to terminate this individual from her job. Ms. Jabour stated she understands the seriousness of selling to a minor and asked for forgiveness with the fine as she asserts her company has a good record and does a lot for the town of Medway. Ms. Hallal informed the Board of two previous violations by Mobil; one in 2019 for workplace smoking and one in 2014 for selling to a minor. The Board asked questions of Ms. Dufour and their jurisdiction in lessening the fine. Ms. Dufour explained that the Massachusetts State Law created in 2020, has their own fining structure and that the Boards of Health within each town could only be more strict. Mr. Lindstrom asked about the possibility of an appeal. Ms. Dufour asked to be given time to research this and to explore other options.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion for the fine to be placed on hold until the Board has received information on appealing and what that process would look like. The Board would then share this information with Ms. Jabour. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: Ms. Dufour to look into the appeal process and share what is found with Ms. Hallal.

- Agenda Item 2:**
Farm Animal Permit
13 Stable Way
(9 Chickens)
- Ms. Hamlin from Animal Control has confirmed all requirements have been met. Ms. Hallal recommends the Board approve the permit.
Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the permit. Mr. Mill seconded. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
- Agenda Item 3:**
Farm Animal Permit
153 Lovering St.
(6 Chickens)
- Ms. Hamlin from Animal Control has confirmed all requirements have been met. Ms. Hallal recommends the Board approve the permit.
Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the permit. Mr. Mill seconded. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
- Agenda Item 4:**
3 Copper Drive
New Septic System
- 4th and final plan to approve for subdivision (4 bedroom house). Conservation has given approval Ms. Hallal recommends the Board to approve the permit.
Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
- Agenda Item 5:**
Body Art Regulations
- Ms. Hallal reminded all Board members that they will have to come into the town hall and sign the approved Body Art Regulations. She will send a date & time slot for each member to come in and do so.
- Agenda Item 6:**
COVID-19 Report
- Ms. Hallal sent out the report to each Board Member. Mr. Lindstrom made the suggestion of posting it on the Town of Medway website for public access.
Action Item: *Ms. Hallal will work with Ms. O'Brien to cosmetically improving the document prior to posting on the town website.*
- Agenda Item 7:**
DESE Mask
Requirements from
2021.09.27
- DESE mask requirements have been extended to November 1st. Ms. Harris made note that she uncomfortable with the Department of Education making health decisions for the community, also stating that the CDC Director made a public statement indicating the vaccine doesn't prevent the transmission, and if masks are being mandated to encourage people to get the vaccine to reach the 80% mark, it doesn't line up with the reason for masking (mandate from the state).
Action Item: *Mr. Lindstrom asked Ms. Hallal to find out where DESE obtains clinical data and health professional support.*
Ms. Harris feels decisions should be made at a community level based on the needs of Medway residents. Mr. Lindstrom asked about the availability of masks for people who can't afford them ie. Ms. Hallal stated that her office has a good supply of masks for town residents as well as the Fire Department that can be given out to residents. Ms. Tonelli mentioned that the Senior Center also has masks available to senior citizens.
Action Item: *Ms. Hallal to write up something, and for the Board to approve, that states masks are available for residents in need at the Town Hall.*
- Agenda Item 8:**
Water/Fluoridation
- Ms. Hallal provided a Q&A to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. Hallal spoke to Barry Smith of DPW, confirming that the town of Medway would run out of fluoride by the end of the week and unclear when more fluoride will be available.
Action Item: *Ms. Hallal will work with Allison Potter, Associate Town Manager to create a notification that states that fluoride will not be in the water after this week and the town is unclear when it would be available again.*
The Board has to make a determination as to whether they want fluoride in the water system again. If they should choose against it, the decision will have to be presented at the spring Town Meeting, voted for, and then present something to legislature.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to notify the general public that fluoride would be running out and the town is attempting to get more. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Lindstrom made a second motion for the Board to review data regarding fluoride in the water supply and to self-educate prior to the Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Action Item: Mr. Lindstrom asked Ms. Hallal to give the notification to pediatricians in town as to the change in fluoride. Mr. Lindstrom asked Ms. Tonelli to speak to pediatric dentists in town as to their opinions on fluoride in the water vs. no fluoride in the water.

Tabled Items:

1. DESE Mandate: vaccination rates and Arbovirus report have all been put on the BOH webpage.
2. During a previous meeting, Ms. Harris questioned schools using the vaccination bus. Ms. Hallal spoke to the Town Council who responded that the School Department may independently contract with medical services, including vaccine clinics. The Board is not required to approve such programs, but can act if determined that any program or clinic is a public nuisance. Ms. Harris asked if it would be good practice for the Board to know when vaccine clinics are being held so that the Board can check in to make sure programs are being run safely. Ms. Tonelli shared that Salmon VNA had been overseeing flu clinics at the senior center and Medway High prior to COVID. Ms. Tonelli shared with the Board information about how Salmon VNA operates (scheduling clinics, logging information). Ms. Hallal informed the Board that the Town of Medway is no longer using Salmon VNA and is using Natick/ Walpole VNA.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal to ask if the Board can have access to viewing the new contract.

3. Information on mandating municipal employees to get vaccinated: under the purview of the Town Administrator not the Board of Health. Mr. Mill asked which person or entity is responsible for the mandating of students to get vaccinated?

Action Item: Ms. Hallal will find the answer to Mr. Mill's question.

4. Ms. Hallal shared with the Board the town statistics on COVID vaccination and positivity rates. 76% percent of the town is fully vaccinated.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal to put the printouts that she read from on the town website and social media platforms.

5. Ms. Harris asked a question as to if the VNA informs individuals who have tested positive for covid about the Monoclonal antibodies (immunotherapy) available to them.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal can ask the nurse. Number of positive cases in town is currently 7.

6. Correspondence on West Nile Virus and EEE. Medway is currently low risk for both viruses.

Next Meeting Date: October 18th, 2021

Adjourn: 6:29pm

Submitted by M. Cahoon

Revised by K. OBrien on 4.20.2022