

Board Members

Jack Mill, III
Khalid Abdi
Katherine Tonelli
Leanne Harris
Caryn Smith
Derek Kwok, Health Director
Kelly OBrien, Administrator



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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

Date/Time of Meeting: 9/19/2022

Location of Meeting: Medway Public Library, 26 High Street

Committee Members Roll Call and in Attendance: Jack Mill ☒ Khalid Abdi ☒ Katherine Tonelli ☒ Leanne Harris ☒ Caryn Smith ☒

Visitors Present: Anna Russo

Town Employees Present: Derek Kwok, Kelly OBrien

Call to Order: 5:29pm

Minutes Review: Unavailable until next meeting

Agenda Item 1:
2 Broken Tree Road
(Septic Repair)

Mr. Kwok recommended approval for this repair, making the comment that he would like to see a second hole for a soil evaluation, but was still good with an approval.

Motion to approve septic pending second hole was made by Mr. Mill, seconded by Mr. Abdi, approved by all.

Agenda Item 2:
22 Holbrook Street
(D-Box Replacement)

Mr. Kwok recommended approval for this replacement.

Motion to approve D-Box replacement made by Mr. Mill, seconded by Ms. Smith. Approved by all.

Discussions:

1. Fee changes and additions: Mr. Kwok and Ms. OBrien have been working on fee changes. Mr. Kwok noted that upon review, the pricing does not match up to what is in the regulations, and once everything is aligned and reviewed, it will come back to the Board for a final review.
2. Walgreens (trash): Ms. OBrien stated that she had a conversation with the Building/Zoning Commissioner and Mr. Kwok, who in turn both went to Walgreens to speak to the Manager plus the site foreman. Since discussions, Walgreens has been able to manage the trash that was surrounding the establishment.
3. Farm Animal Regulations: Mr. Kwok, Ms. OBrien, Town Counsel, and the Animal Control Officer are currently working on it and once reviewed and updated, it will be sent to the Board for a final review. Mr. Kwok said the DRAFT regulations must be submitted to the MA Department of Agricultural Resources for approval as well. Mr. Mill said asked to send it to them first and then open it for public comment. Mr. Kwok said that he intends to make some big changes to the regulations such as taking out farms and cats. The Board appreciated the update and looks forward to the final review.

**Tabled Items From
Last Meeting:**

1. Fluoride & Other Chemicals in Water System: Ms. OBrien stated that she reached out to Mr. Barry Smith of DPW without response. Mr. Kwok stated that he had a brief conversation with Mr. Smith and did receive information that there has been no update on when Medway was to receive fluoride again. As to the concerns surrounding chemicals in Medway's water; DPW is following DEP regulations. A member of the public, Ms. Anna Russo of 57 Holliston Street, stated that she uses a filtration system in her house to remove fluoride, stating there are many reports of Fluoride affecting brain growth in children. Ms. Russo asked the Board if they could review the documentation she brought in; urging to have fluoride removed from Medway's water system. The information was left with Ms. OBrien to distribute amongst Board members. Ms. Harris stated that she had 2 concerns about this topic; she wanted to see the studies of removing fluoride and then studies of water with fluoride. Ms. Harris also mentioned her concern about receiving it from China; stating it was a risk and weakness within our community, and it was a "nuisance" that should be prohibited from China. Ms. Harris' final input was that she felt all sides should be reviewed and posed the question about getting the public involved. Mr. Abdi chimed in stating eventually Fluoride will be available and when the time comes, and at that time maybe a plan-of-action could be discussed. The Board thanked Ms. Russo for her input and was then excused. Ms. Smith mentioned that if researching something enough, bias opinions would be found. Ms. OBrien made a final statement that the Public Health Department only goes on information received by the CDC, HHS, WHO and government websites.
2. VNA Contract – Board Review: Ms. OBrien gave everyone the correspondence received from Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager. Attached to the correspondence were 2 contracts: Natick/Walpole VNA and Senior Center RN. Mr. Kwok said that we are currently in negotiations with the Natick/Walpole VNA for a revised contract and should be finalized soon. Mr. Abdi asked how much we pay, which is \$1,500 a month plus a COVID-19 cost, which has gone down significantly since demise of the pandemic.
3. Legal Obligations: Ms. Potter outlined the Board obligations in her previous correspondence. Mr. Abdi inquired about the current payment agreement, making comment that he felt that it would be cheaper to go with a town nurse as opposed to a contracted company, but it was questioned whether we were budget for it or not. Mr. Kwok let the Board know that once an updated contract is executed, they will receive a copy.
4. Regulation Alterations: In Ms. Potter's correspondence, she notes there is language in the charter that addresses the responsibilities of the Board. It was mentioned that Ms. Harris went to the Health Department last week looking for new regulations. Upon review, it was discovered that the last ones revised were dated 1997. Ms. OBrien stated that she has since registered with MAHB which will give us updated regulations, and other necessary documents needed for the Board. Mr. Kwok said that he was going to individually update the regulations, and the Board agreed with

that idea. Mr. Kwok said that we already have state regulations, and if we want to go to a more stringent version, that's where/why the regulations would be created. Ms. Harris asked if we were able to get any more information on the school regulations. It appeared that the school regulations in the MAHB binder were the regulations that are current. In the MAHB binder it also said that the school has certain responsibilities for health purposes but should have a BOH member involved so everyone is making health decisions together. School regulations have not been updated since 2007. Ms. Harris expressed her want to obtain the legal obligations and was interested in obtaining the town charter as it adds/clarifies responsibilities. Considering there are 3 entities, *town, school, and library* – she felt that every entity was making their own rules. This topic brought on another conversation for the next meeting, which is the public library is hosting an event that statement COVID-19 vaccination cards and N-95 masks are mandatory to enter the library on this date. Ms. Harris made the motion for this topic to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Mill reiterated what Ms. Harris stated (private event in a public building and making mandatory requirements prior to entry) and made the motion for Mr. Kwok to send a letter to the library, reminding them of the state regulations and to reconsider their mandatory request of the public. Seconded by Ms. Harris, approved by all.

5. Herbacides – Run off's: Ms. OBrien distributed an email received by Pete Pelletier, Director of DPW, which had the regulations regarding Vegetation Growth around Medway. Mr. Kwok made note to the Board that the regulations are satisfactory in his opinion. The Board noted that they were satisfied with documentation received.
6. Trash Pickup for the Weekends: Ms. OBrien corresponded with Mr. Pelletier about this topic where he indicated that DPW does go to Choate on Saturdays and Sundays to remove trash; plus they pick up trash as seen around town. Mr. Abdi stated that the reason the trash receptacles were removed is because they were being overused. Mr. Mill asked about his suggestion of solar trash receptacles, and Ms. OBrien stated that she received a response that DPW was not in favor of using them, but she would try to obtain more information on why they were frowned upon.
7. *Mr. Abdi requested and then made the motion for Mr. Kwok to construct a letter to send to DPW and Parks and Recreation, asking to reinstate trash barrels to be put back in Choate Park. Motion ammended by Mr. Mill to inquire about solar trash compactors and then seconded. Approved by all.*
8. Community Trends: At the last meeting, Ms. Harris inquired about community trends and how much Narcan is used. Ms. Smith chimed in asking if we can ask the police department how many times they use Narcan as well, as information Ms. OBrien obtained was from the Fire Department only. Information received by Ms. OBrien indicates that Narcan was used 12 times between the months of January through June; having 6 DOA's upon arrival, but does not have much detail. Ms. Smith gave input to the Board by stating that Narcan isn't only used for recreational drugs, but can be used for accidental prescription overdoses,

too. Ms. Smith informed the Board that any member of the public can go into a pharmacy and obtain Narcan without a prescription. Ms. Smith was encouraged to make the motion to inform the public about Narcan distribution by educating the public via Board of Health webpage. Before making her motion, Ms. Smith asked the Board if it would be a good idea to contact the state about having a Narcan training here in town for the public.

Motion was made by Ms. Smith to put information on the Public Health website about Narcan, and to construct a letter to the Police and Fire Chiefs about having Narcan training for the public. Seconded by Mr. Abdi, approved by all.

9. Dogs at Choate: Mr. Kwok stated that this falls under the purview of the Animal Control Officer, who is addressing this subject.

Committee Member Jack Mill ☒ Khalid Abdi ☒ Katherine Tonelli ☒ Leanne Harris ☒
Roll Call to Caryn Smith ☒
Complete Meeting:

Next Meeting Date: 10/3/2022

Adjourn: 6:27pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelly OBrien on 2022.10.19