

Town of South Hadley

Board of Health

Board of Health, Members

Walter R. Wolf, DPM, Chair
Michael A. Rosner, MD, Vice Chair
Suzanne M. Cordes, Clerk



Board of Health, Staff

Sharon D. Hart, Dir. of Public Health
Jennifer J. Jernigan, Admin. Assistant
Margaret E. Bernard, RN
Community Health Nurse

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BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES April 6, 2016

As Approved – June 1, 2016

Present: Dr. Wolf, Chair; Dr. Rosner, Vice Chair, Suzanne Cordes, Clerk; Sharon Hart, Health Director, Jennifer Jernigan, Administrative Assistant; Jason, Tobacco 84 Group and South Hadley Student; Karen Walsh-Pio, Tobacco 84 Group; Joanna Brown, South Hadley Resident; Sandy Kaminski, South Hadley Resident; William Schenker, South Hadley Resident.

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:43 p.m. by Suzanne Cordes.

1. Director's Report:

- Director Hart and Jennifer Jernigan signed up for the Foundations of Local Public Health Practice Certification Program. While there is no required formal certification program for Public Health employees, this one was developed by Boston University and Dept. of Public Health. This program takes 3 or 4 months to complete and is a way to certify staff who deal with public health issues.

Dr. Wolf arrived at 4:45 p.m.

- Western Mass Public Health Association is offering a seminar on May 3rd for Serv-Safe. Director Hart is President of Western Mass Public Health Association.
- Director Hart was involved in the Storm Water Management Permitting of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy Expansion and the High School Athletic Field. She witnessed the soils test to make sure they drained for the storm water.
- We got an audit for 17 Morgan Street.
- Director Hart applied for a grant for 80 cartons of Evzio Naloxone Auto-Injectors and also got some from the West Springfield Board of Health, who had extra. Two each will be dispensed to the schools and also Mt. Holyoke College wanted some. Our town physician okayed the auto-injectors and wants there to be training on how to use them. The product comes with an actual trainer product that walks you through the steps of how to use it so training is provided. Our Public Health nurse wants some for Hadley, also. The nurses all

have training on how to use them. The Superintendent of Schools has also okayed the product.

- Director Hart attended a MEMA grant briefing and also attended an EMD Quarterly Meeting. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was finished up and so she then had to do the briefing.
- The MRC is no longer funded annually. Grants now have to be applied for. So the South Hadley/Granby/Northampton MRC applied for a grant and was awarded \$15,000! There are only two or three grants awarded in the State and we were the only ones in Western Mass to get one!
- Director Hart ordered and distributed pamphlets on “Preventing Disease Spread by Ticks” and also sent to the Council on Aging pamphlets entitled “Disaster Preparedness for Seniors.” Director Hart has also gotten some pamphlets for the Drug & Alcohol Coalition on “A Parent’s Guide to Drugs & Alcohol.”
- Director Hart is on the South Hadley Bike/Ped Advisory Committee and attending their meetings. It is going well. It has not been quite a year yet.
- Planning applied for a grant through the Dept. of Public Health and is looking at the Housing Initiative and how we could do a *Healthy* Housing Initiative and apply it to sub-divisions. For example, can sidewalks be installed so that residents are inclined to walk as opposed to driving? This Grant was for \$15,000 also.
- As Emergency Management Director, Director Hart met with the American Red Cross to review shelters and a MOU so that they would run the shelters for the Town. Paperwork is being drawn up by the Red Cross right now. We will review it when it’s ready.
- Two separate letters were written on 188x Pearl Street and the issue has been resolved.

Dr. Rosner arrived at 4:53 p.m.

- We got the Holyoke Gas and Electric’s Yearly Operational Plan
- We received the latest facility report on the Police Dept. from the Dept. of Public Health.
- We did an inspection of the new appliances over at the Council on Aging kitchen.
- Notices of compliance were given for: 69 Lathrop Street, Apt. 4C and 4D
- Director Hart reviewed plans for Stony Brook – plans for building a building in front of all the condominiums.
- The situation with 41 West Summit was discussed. Falls Woods Condominiums had an issue with water leaks on an owner-occupied unit. Director Hart wrote a letter to the Condo Association and working with the Building Commissioner, a new roof on the building was installed. A final inspection by the Board of Health just needs to be completed now.
- Director Hart worked on septic issues with 281 Hadley Street.

- Jennifer Jernigan attended Kick Butts Day.
- We witnessed a perc test for 339 Pearl Street.
- Director Hart and Jennifer Jernigan attended the Tobacco Cessation Program at Tower Hill on March 2nd and also the MTCP Board of Health Meeting there on February 9th. We have the Tobacco Grant and host/run the coalition of 26 towns in Hampshire and Franklin County. We try to get everybody on the same page with the regulations that we are doing.
- Jennifer Jernigan is working on Livestock, Camp, and Funeral Director permits.
- We went to a seminar in Dedham, MA on the “State of Marijuana.”
- Jennifer Jernigan has been working a great deal lately with Mt. Holyoke College on when to permit and inspect for food events.
- Director Hart is working on the Abandoned Housing Initiative.

2. 5:04 pm. Public Hearing – Flavor Ban

Dr. Wolf opened up the public hearing at 5:04 pm. Director Hart presented the current tobacco regulation, updating it to include a flavor ban on flavored e-cigarettes, flavored cigarettes and flavored tobacco. Discussion occurred around the flavor ban as to be worded in the current regulation. Dr. Wolf questioned how to educate our stores. Can we approve/sign the regulation and give a grace period to our stores? Director Hart agreed that this is ok. We will send all stores the new regulations and will give a copy to Dennis, the Tobacco Officer. He will do an educational visit to all stores first and then a compliance check. Dr. Wolf asked for comments. Jason, Tobacco 84 Group commented on Buka Pens and how 18- year-old students use in them in school. Dr. Wolf asked if the School Committee/Board does not allow tobacco in school. Karen stated that yes – it’s in the rules that tobacco is not allowed and there are strict consequences. Karen stated that she thinks there are almost 4,000 flavors aimed at school kids currently. Director Hart mentioned that they are making these tobacco products look like pens now, so that you can’t tell they are really tobacco products when in school. Joanna Brown spoke about her experiences at Holyoke Community College when it was becoming a smoke free campus. There were many grateful that it went smoke free. Sandra Zieminski applauded how smart the student is who is anti-smoking because smoking damages your health! There was no other input so Dr. Wolf motioned to approve the tobacco regulation changes as listed. Suzanne Cordes seconded. All were in favor. No one opposed. The Board of Health decided to make the regulation effective June 1st. All were in favor.

The public hearing closed at 5:21 pm. Suzanne Cordes seconded. All in favor.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

Dr. Wolf motioned to accept the minutes of February 3, 2016. Suzanne Cordes seconded. All were in favor.

4. Director’s Report (continued) at 5:23 p.m.

- We are working on the Abandoned Housing Initiative. Director Hart has condemned 6 abandoned houses. Dr. Wolf motioned to ratify: 17 Summit Street, 144 Pearl Street, 37 Bardwell, 518 River Road and 58 Amherst. Susanne Cordes seconded. All were in favor.
- We permitted and inspected FestForward.
- Dr. Hart is on the Spiffy AdHoc Strategic Planning Work Group and participated in that.
- Both Director Hart and Jennifer Jernigan participated in interviews for the Ledges Golf Course staff.
- Director Hart and Jennifer Jernigan attended the “Annual Winter Seminar” in Devens, MA.
- We did a barn demolition inspection for 49 Lamb Street.
- Jennifer Jernigan attended CPR and First Aid Training at STCC on March 15th. Director Hart did a CPR training also and is working on becoming a trainer for CPR.
- We attended a Saturday MassGreen.org meeting on February 20th in Wesley. Sharon was one of the panelists and talked about our Polystyrene Regulations and how it was put through by the Board of Health. Director Hart is also exploring a plastic bag ban for the future, as was discussed at the meeting. None of the bag bans at the meeting were done through the Board of Health, however. Dr. Rosner stated it would be interesting to know the actual volume of plastic bags dumped in our area.
- Director Hart, Jennifer Jernigan and Marge, the Public Health Nurse took a webinar on Maven – Investigating Suspect Hep B & C events.
- We attended “All About the Housing Code” seminar on February 23rd.
- We are investigating Stony Brook Cider on Morgan Street claiming they are a farmer and that they get a permit for wine.
- Director got a grant through MEMA for close to \$5,000 to put in cameras on the outside of the police department building. The Emergency Operations Center is in the police department and the grant money will be used also to upgrade that room.
- The rabies clinic is set for April 16th.
- We are doing weekly ZIKA seminars.
- Director is involved in the K-Y-T function.
- We had a call down drill for the MRC and Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

- We received various housing complaints and the Board reviewed those and if there were any questions, they were addressed.

5. **New Business**

(a) Livestock Regulations

Director Hart would like to redo the Livestock Regulations to include enforcement. Director Hart explained about renters having issues with landlords denying the permit and this process needs to be enforceable. Questions that occur are: Is this really a Board of Health issue? We have that the permit goes with the land. Should it be? Dr. Wolf asked that Director Hart draft something up and the Board will review. There is also a change to the Town By-law regarding pets/animals being proposed. Town Administrator Mike Sullivan has created an amendment and the Board of Health reviewed it here at this meeting as it states that the Board of Health helps enforce the by-law, once passed. No comments were made on the amendment by the Board of Health at this time.

(b) Soils Class

Director Hart discussed how Jennifer Jernigan would like to take a soils class as part of her training and that she can't because her formal title is an "Administrative Assistant." This class would aid her in doing Septic Inspections. In order to take the class you must be either a Board of Health member or a Health Agent. The Board stated that Jennifer is an agent within the Board of Health and is doing the functions currently of a Health Agent. Dr. Wolf made a formal motion that Jennifer Jernigan become an agent of the Board of Health. Dr. Rosner seconded. All were in favor. Now Director Hart can bring it forward to the Town Administrator and the Human Resources Department.

(c) Polystyrene Ban

We researched a complaint that was received concerning Ochoa not being a food establishment and serving tea in polystyrene cups. We sent them a copy of the Polystyrene Regulations and we will follow up with them. Potluck regulations were then discussed. If we get complaints about polystyrene being used, we send the group our Polystyrene Regulations. We also had somebody question the coffee cup lids being used. They are recyclable but are hard plastic - polystyrene. Director Hart asked: "Are there any health concerns with these lids and do we want to ban them?" Only if someone brings hard medical evidence, per Dr. Wolf. They are recyclable. Dr. Rosner and Suzanne did not state to pursue any differently than Dr. Wolf.

6. **Old Business**

(a) Artificial Turf

Director Hart reviewed that there were concerns heard on the artificial turf going in at the high school. We had discussed this in earlier Board of Health meetings. It had been decided that

once the Rec Department decided on who was going to install the turf, then we would set policy on its maintenance. Dr. Wolf stated that we should definitely set policy once the field type is chosen, etc. Preparations are being made currently at the field. Dr. Wolf asked that we send Andy Rogers a memo stating that we need the particulars provided to the Board of Health as soon as possible to review for operation/maintenance plans and set policy. Suzanne Cordes stated that she has issue with people at the Planning Board Meeting and other meetings stating that the Board of Health is in favor of the Artificial Turf and using the Board of Health to gain leverage to get other Boards to approve it. It was never approved here. She wants to be on record that she is against the artificial turf and did not approve it. If there was a vote, she would have said “no.” It was never even discussed here. Dr. Wolf stated that they need to decide if they are going to put this topic on the next agenda as a formal meeting, etc. Joanna Brown discussed her concerns and referred to the articles that she had wanted the Board to read on artificial turf. She would like the Board of Health to require that there be an informational letter to all parents on the federal study being launched on potential health effects of artificial turf by the CDC, EPA, etc. She is concerned about liability for the town down the road. She stated that we could ask parents to sign receipt of a form about possible risks before they play. Dr. Wolf recommended we write a short letter to town council regarding liability and potential risks down the road in case there is indeed shown that there are health risks associated with artificial turf. A second concern of Joanna is that Andy Rogers said there is no way to irrigate the field. What will be the benchmark for temperature? What will be the Board of Health requirement? How will it be charted and when will games and practice be postponed/rescheduled? Director Hart stated that we can set policy on these items. Per Dr. Wolf, we can extrapolate to other types: natural turf, tennis courts, etc. Dr. Wolf thinks that parents should be notified of potential risks and sign off before play, but they should also know that nothing has been proven yet.

Dr. Rosner moved to hold a public hearing at our next meeting on the artificial turf. Suzanne Cordes seconded and all were in favor. Dr. Wolf would like the following people invited by written format and all were in agreement: Town Administrator, Andy Rodgers, Town Attorney, Joanna Brown, Sandra Zieminski and the School Superintendent and School Department. Sandra Zieminski thanked the Board for having a public hearing on the artificial turf. She feels that the fact that the federal government is now doing a study is unusual and that because enough people have brought up concerns, there needs to be some research done. It is too bad that the Board of Health was not brought into this earlier, she stated. Dr. Wolf agreed. Next Board of Health meeting will be on June 1, 2016 and the public hearing part of it will be held at 5 p.m. All were in favor.

Adjournment:

Dr. Wolf motioned to close the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Suzanne Cordes seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer J. Jernigan
Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT A

DOCUMENT	RECORD LOCATION
ServSafe Training Class Form	BOH File
Berkshire Hills Music Academy Expansion Plans	BOH File
High School Athletic Field Redevelopment Project Plans	BOH File
17 Morgan Street – AUL Audit Inspection	BOH File
Evzio Donation Paperwork	BOH File
MRC Grant Award Documents	BOH File
Tick Brochure	BOH File
188x Pearl Street Documentation	BOH File
Holyoke Gas and Electric Yearly Operational Plan	BOH File
Ochoa Day Spa – Styrofoam Cups	BOH File
Facility Report for 41 Bridge Street	BOH File
Notices of Compliance for 69 Lathrop Street, 4C and 4D	BOH File
Spiffy AdHoc Strategic Planning Work Group	BOH File
69 Lathrop Street, Apt. 8C Documentation	BOH File
34 Bridge Street Documentation	BOH File
1011 Change to General By-laws email	BOH File
Soil Evaluator Class Information	BOH File
Artificial Turf Information	BOH File
37 Bardwell Street – Order	BOH File
19 Ludlow Road – Order	BOH File
144 Pearl Street – Order	BOH File

