

**Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2011**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair  
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair  
Kevin Wormstead  
Lea Susan Ojamaa  
Mary Seymour

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director  
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary  
Katherine Wang, Summer Intern

Action Items:

1. Ms. Porter will ask for a copy of the slides used in the Avila IBC presentation.
2. Ms. Porter will have signage in Vietnamese installed at the Concord River bridge on Carlisle Road to advise against eating fish caught in the river.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Seymour moved that the September 12, 2011 meeting minutes be accepted as amended. Mr. Wormstead seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0.

Board Issues

Board Liaison Assignments:

Ms. Porter and Dr. Brunkhorst met the Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBC) at Avila Therapeutics Inc., a clinical stage biotechnology company, which is involved in protein-silencing research. The committee presented a very good overview of their work. Ms. Porter will ask for a copy of their slides. Avila does not do pre-employment screening physicals. Back in the 1990s, pre-employment physicals included retention of serum samples; this procedure is being phased out in the industry due to expense. They will have a large animal lab, using only mice and rats. They have installed door sweeps to prevent wild mice ingress and well as lab mice egress. Ms. Porter will continue to work with other Bedford biotechnology firms.

Mr. Kinzer attended the meeting of the Financial Committee in support of a request for a Reserve Fund Transfer for purchase of flu vaccine for the residents of Bedford. Though committee members asked why the town should provide funds for influenza vaccine, they had no problem authorizing the funds transfer. Although anticipating this is a one-time request, Mr. Kinzer indicated that that would be dependent on reimbursement funds received following this flu season.

Ms. Porter indicated that her intent is to establish a Revolving Account so that insurance reimbursements received for flu doses and administration of the doses could be retained and those funds used for future purchase of flu and other Board of Health clinical needs. Ms. Porter said that she had prepared the paperwork to take the issue to the Special Town Meeting, but Rick Reed, Town Manager, indicated that the revolving fund could be established now without Town Meeting approval but would have to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring. The revolving fund is now established, but Ms. Porter indicated that in FY12 the only funds that can be placed in the fund are those for flu dose reimbursement and not administration of the flu vaccine, as those reimbursement funds were taken into consideration when determining the FY12 tax levy. For FY13 it is anticipated that both dose and administration reimbursements will be placed in the revolving fund. In previous BOH Minutes 10-03-11

years, the department was reimbursed only for administration of vaccine to limited populations, not for the actual vaccine doses.

Mr. Kinzer and Ms. Porter went to the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Hanscom Air Force Base where a very detailed history of site issues was presented. Mr. Kinzer said that he got some insight on the finding of arsenic on the surface, in soil and in crumbled rock but not in the bedrock. Ms. Porter said that she is getting information from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on naturally occurring arsenic and uranium in bedrock. Chlorinated solvents are still being found in the groundwater that flows beneath the community garden. The Board must be vigilant in case well applications come in for that area. Mr. Kinzer said that the account of the jet fuel problem was clearer than he had heard previously: the fuel does not migrate from the sand lenses where it is presently found. It is close to the Shawsheen River but not in it. Major reconstruction is underway on aging equipment used in the effluent treatment system.

Mr. Wormstead and Ms. Porter attended the Youth and Family Services Committee meeting. Mr. Wormstead met the new Chief of Police. Chief Bongiorno is working on a diversion program for first-time offenders, Restorative Justice, in which the offender faces a community panel. The offender is required to meet the victim in order to understand the hurt they have caused. The program has community support. The Chief is out and about in the community. The police department will introduce a "Rape Aggression Defense" system, known as RAD, and a drug presentation will be given for parents. The Bedford Families Unplugged program will take place in November.

The Youth Task Force also met. Ms. Porter has not yet heard a decision on an application submitted for Boston Public Health Commission Strategic Alliance for Health grant funds. For the Bedford in Motion program, Carla Baer has put walking maps up on the website and health and wellness resources. The Task Force is discussing holding more dances for the youth. Some funds have become available due to Bedford's having again been named as among the 100 Best Communities for Young People, but the use of the funds has not yet been decided. Mr. Porter will be applying for a \$20,000 grant from the Community Health Network Area (CHNA) with Youth and Family Services.

Mr. Kinzer and Ms. Porter attended the Bedford Community Partnership Committee meeting, where Mr. Kinzer also heard about Chief Bongiorno's program. Mr. Kinzer also learned that BCAT won an award as Best Small Community Access Television Station.

#### New Business:

(1) Dr. Brunkhorst asked Ms. Porter to get signs in the Vietnamese language installed at the Concord River bridge on Carlisle Road to advise that fish caught in the river should not be eaten; the river is contaminated with various contaminants.

(2) The school department is starting a search for a new superintendent; Board members were asked what questions should be put to candidates for the position. Ms. Ojamaa said that the candidate should be reminded that physical activity should not be limited to gym class. Mr. Wormstead asked whether nutrition information is included in the curriculum; Dr. Brunkhorst said that it is, e.g., the food pyramid. The candidate should be asked about policy on vending machines, bake sales, etc.

#### Director's Report:

Ms. Porter reported on the plans for flu vaccinations, on her presentation to the Council on Aging, and on Dr. Nathan's transition to conducting school screenings. She said that the new part-time nurse is doing very well. Ms. Porter participated in a table-top exercise for emergency preparedness and has scheduled a training event for the town's emergency groups on October 11. She briefed the Board on a

situation involving several properties on Carlisle Road; the owner of the properties will appear before the Board at the November 7 meeting.

Ms. Ojamaa moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

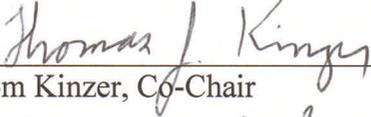
The next meetings of the Board will take place on November 7 and December 5, 2011.



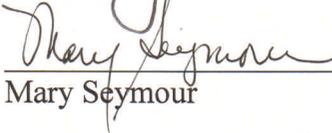
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair



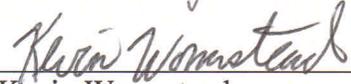
Lea Susan Ojamaa



Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair



Mary Seymour



Kevin Wormstead