

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2012**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair,
Sarah Thompson
Anita Raj
Kevin Wormstead

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

Minutes:

Mr. Wormstead moved to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting as amended; Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0-2

Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting as amended; Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0-1

Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products:

Correspondence was received from D. J. Wilson, Tobacco Control Director at the Massachusetts Municipal Association, recommending tabling the cigar components of the draft regulations or delaying implementation for a year.

Ms. Porter provided copies of the letter she sent to the National Association of Tobacco Outlets (NATO) on behalf of the Board of Health in response to NATO's request for legal opinions and public documents; after consult with Town Counsel, she informed NATO that Bedford has no obligation to provide a legal opinion and that copies of the public documents could be obtained if they paid the cost of copying 2,642 pages, \$528.40. NATO had recently written to the Bedford Board of Selectmen asking if they were aware of the Board of Health's proposed regulations and stating that the Board of Health does not have purview in such a case. Mr. Reed, the town manager, will notify the Board of Selectmen that town counsel supports the Board of Health position.

Ms. Porter received calls from the Northside Convenience store and from the Stop & Shop grocery store inquiring about the status of the regulations and what action they need to take to be in compliance. She informed them that a vote on the regulation was expected at tonight's Board meeting and she would be in contact with them subsequent to the meeting.

Dr. Brunkhorst said that the Board wanted to review the cigar component. She asked Mr. Wormstead, who was not at the last meeting, whether he had caught up on the Board's proceedings; he asked about the effective dates of the regulations. Ms. Porter proposed that the phrase "which is effective July 1, 2013" be inserted in section 6B6.0. She said that Town Counsel's recommendation was to enhance the Statement of Purpose, section 6B1.0; she has done so. She sent a copy to Mr. Wilson; the statement is now being used by the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

Mr. Wormstead moved that the Board adopt the revised tobacco regulations effective July 1, 2012, except for section 6B6.0: Cigar Sales Regulation, which will have an effective date of July 1, 2013. Ms. Raj seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0-0

Board of Health Action Items ---Old and New Business:

Update on BOH liaison assignments:

Mr. Wormstead said that he will be attending the Youth and Family Services meeting on Thursday, May 10, and will report to the Board next month. That meeting will be the last of the school year.

Dr. Brunkhorst said that she and Ms. Porter will visit Becton, Dickinson and Company. Ms. Porter said that she and Corinne Miller visited the new rDNA applicant, Emerald Biostructures, to discuss their project registration and biosafety manual, but they were not yet set up and Ms. Porter and Ms. Miller will need to re-visit them for an Institutional Biosafety Meeting.

Ms. Porter and Mr. Kinzer attended "Tick Talk," a presentation on tick biology, diseases they transmit and methods to tick-proof your property, at Emerson Hospital. The speaker, Dr. Al DeMaria of the Massachusetts Department of Health State Laboratory provided a presentation on the life cycle of the tick and methods of personal protection; he also suggested that a 3 foot gravel barrier around a yard would provide some protection. Dr. Brunkhorst mentioned that it is necessary to control the population of the white-footed mouse, the tick's primary host. Ms. Porter said that the tick requires 3 blood meals, and first and second from the mice; the third can be from a deer or a human. Mr. Kinzer said that only after a 2 year cycle does the female tick lay eggs. Ms. Porter said that she will put information on tick-proofing on the website. Ms. Raj asked whether the Board should partner with the Conservation Commission; Ms. Porter said that she will include on the website contact information for other relevant departments should residents seek to tick-proof and alter their land proximal to wetlands. Mr. Kinzer reported that Dr. DeMaria said the area landscape has been very much altered over the centuries and is now perfect for deer. Veterinarians can provide Lyme vaccine for dogs, but no vaccine is available for humans. Mr. Wormstead said that deer have become comfortable with humans since they are no longer hunted.

Ms. Porter said that she and Mr. Kinzer attended the Community Partnership meeting where fundraising at the schools was discussed.

Ms. Porter discussed the Safe Routes to School project. A proposal to extend the sidewalk for the use of Lane School students was not accepted by the state funders. Some improvements are being considered to make walking easier for the students, especially across The Great Road at Hillside Road.

Director's Report:

Mr. Porter, along with Fire Department Chief Grunes and Police Department Chief Bongiorno met with Rev. John Gibbons of First Parish for briefing on caring for the dead at home. The Board of Health issues burial certificates. Ms. Porter will let public safety department know if a private resident has acquired a burial permit and intends to transport a dead body in a private vehicle. She will provide links to information on caring for dead at home on the Board of Health website. Typically, after care at home the body is transported to a crematorium. Cremated remains (ashes) cannot be spread on the ground surface, but may be buried or stored in a container. Dr. Brunkhorst asked about the next step. Ms. Porter anticipated that these cases will be few and far between and she will handle all inquiries personally. Mr. Wormstead asked about landlords of properties where tenants want to care for their own dead. Ms. Porter said that there is nothing in the housing code about care of human remains in the home except that conditions at a residence must be sanitary.

Ms. Porter said that the town is changing employee insurance coverage. She reminded the Board that Jean Squires will be leaving in September. Town nurse Judi Jelloe will be leaving at the end of June. Ms. Porter is trying to make the community nurse position full time at 35 hours; she will send the Board a revised job description. The incumbent nurse will work on emergency preparedness activities and interact with the school nurses.

Ms. Porter said that the Board and the town manager should decide whether her ownership of stock in a company which has recently become associated with a Bedford firm constitutes a conflict of interest which may disqualify her from sitting on the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Ms. Porter stated that she felt her professional decisions would not be impacted by this situation. The Board Co-Chairs signed the form stating they did not believe that Ms. Porter's situation reflected a conflict.

Ms. Porter called attention to a meeting on Saturday, May 12, on the revision of the town's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Kinzer will attend the meeting.

Dr. Brunkhorst mentioned the opening of a tattoo parlor in Concord and expressed concern that Bedford does not have an appropriate regulation. Ms. Porter will send the Board a model regulation covering body art, which includes both tattooing and piercing. Mr. Wormstead asked whether there is a state regulation; Ms. Porter said that there are only local permits.

Ms. Porter distributed copies of a survey form "Toward a Healthier Bedford" from the project's steering committee. Ms. Porter said that Carla Baer, project coordinator, will be going into food retailers to discuss healthy food choices.

Ms. Porter mentioned that the opening of camps and pools is upcoming.

Ms. Porter has been selected as president of MEHA; the position includes a scholarship to a conference in San Diego. Her first project will concern development of model regulations regarding the keeping of animals, including backyard farming. Regulations are passed and enforced by the state's 351 towns, not by the counties. MEHA shares developed materials and training opportunities with all its members.

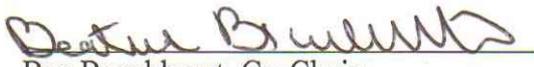
Mr. Kinzer asked for an update on Ms. Skorupka's animal permit. Joe Knott inspected the property about 6 months ago. Mr. Wormstead said that Ms. Skorupka decided not to get as many animals as were permitted. Mr. Kinzer noted that a previous permit holder Julie Brill no longer has goats. Ms. Porter said that Ms. Kiesling has consolidated her two properties on Concord Road which will be large enough to qualify as a farm, so permitting by the BOH, relative to the Keeping of Animals, is not needed. She will operate a goat dairy on-site. The state dairy authorities will have oversight, and Bedford will issue a license based on inspection by the state Department of Public Health. Ms. Kiesling's initial application for a variance from the plumbing code was partially denied. The case is still pending.

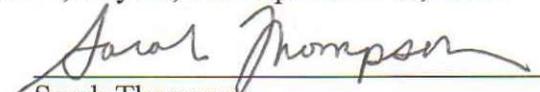
Ms. Porter still has heard no word on the development of the former Travelodge site.

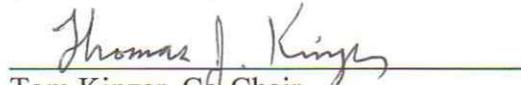
Ms. Porter reported that more than 100 pounds of medical sharps were received from residents at the first collection event on April 28, 2012. A nurse intern will be working with her over the summer to develop a sharps policy.

Mr. Kinzer moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Raj seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

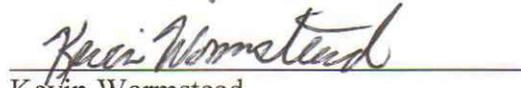
Future meetings of the Board will take place on June 4, July 23, and September 10, 2012.


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Sarah Thompson


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