

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2021, 5:00P.M.
LOCATION: REMOTE**

PRESENT:

Chairperson Margie LaFleur, Member Phillip Durno, Member Renee D'Argento, Health Agent Kalene Gendron, Interim Assistant Trish DeLorey; Robin Hebert, Animal Health Inspector; Mark Mathews, Master Plan Implementation Team Member (MPIT); Stephen Themelis of 4 Franklin Street; Edward Caron and William Gibson of 13 Brookline Street

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Margie LaFleur opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. She announced that the meeting was remote participation only; meeting is being cablecast live and recorded by Pepperell Community Media.

Ms. LaFleur acknowledged the untimely death of our Select Board Chair William "Bill" Greathead and called for a moment of silence in Bill's honor.

Ms. LaFleur regretfully announced the resignation of our Animal Health Inspector Robin Hebert. Ms. LaFleur thanked Ms. Hebert for her hard work and dedication to the town for the past 14 years. Phil Durno recognized that Robin Hebert excelled in her duties as Animal Health Inspector. He recalled that over the years, she went above and beyond her call of duty as she was often called out late in the evening and during increment weather; but despite the circumstances she always did a tremendous job for the Town. The Board extended their appreciation and wished Ms. Hebert well in all future endeavors. Robin Hebert thanked the Board for their support and offered her assistance in training her replacement and whatever is needed for a smooth transition.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson LaFleur presented to the Board the Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2021. On a motion made by Phillip Durno, seconded by Renee D'Argento; it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of January 12, 2021 as written

ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

13 Brookline Street – Landlord seeks to appeal, or modify order, or other relative action; discussion, vote if necessary

Chairperson LaFleur opened the Public Hearing for 13 Brookline Street – Order to Correct at 5:06p.m. Health Agent Kalene Gendron reported that the tenant, William Gibson filed a complaint regarding the condition of the property. Upon receipt of this complaint, Ms. Gendron conducted an inspection on February 3, 2021 of 13 Brookline Street and an Order to Correct was issued detailing a list of eight housing code violations to the Landlord, Ed Caron on February 8,

2021. Ms. Gendron performed a re-inspection of the property on March 1st and noted that six code violations which included the criticals had been addressed with the exception of two violations still remaining. Ms. Gendron asked the Landlord, Mr. Caron, to address the Board.

Ed Caron, reiterated that six code violations had been corrected with two remaining; one being the front entrance door needs to be weathertight and the second issue being that the interior staircase railing is loose and needs to be secured. Mr. Caron asked the Board to withdraw the remaining items and consider closing this case.

Chairperson LaFleur stated that the two items listed on the housing code violation list still needed to be corrected.

Mr. Caron informed the Board that he had received an estimate from a local contractor to repair the two outstanding items and the costs were more than he has at this time. Mr. Caron stated he was also unsure of the contractor's schedule and timeframe of repairs; and thought he may need more time to complete.

Kalene Gendron informed the Board that technically Mr. Caron has 30-days to complete the repairs; deadline being March 13th. Under the housing code, these two remaining items are considered a standard violation and not a critical violation.

Phil Durno made a motion to allow Mr. Caron six months to complete the remaining two items on the housing code violation list.

Discussion followed regarding extending the deadline for the order to correct.

The tenant, Mr. Gibson addressed the Board questioning if there was any proof that Ms. Gendron re-inspected the property as he was home and did not see her. He also stated that he did not agree with Ms. Gendron's re-inspection findings as the ice on the back steps was not corrected. He stated that the water continues to drip off the roof and ice continues to form on the back steps and front walkways. He reported that the landlord sprinkles sand on these areas which he felt does not correct this safety issue. He suggested that a metal diverter be installed on the roof to re-direct the water flow. Mr. Gibson noted that he will be contacting the Building Department to address some of his concerns as well.

Ms. Gendron reiterated that she coordinated her re-inspection of 13 Brookline Street with the landlord on March 1st and at that time both the landing and steps were clear and a path was shoveled. She recapped that only the front entrance door and the interior staircase railing remained in violation.

Chairperson LaFleur informed Mr. Gibson that he had a right to contact the PBOH and file another complaint with the Health Agent regarding these new issues. However, the Board was now discussing the remaining two items on the recent code violation list. Ms. LaFleur also noted that it was the landlord's discretion on how to make the repairs.

At 5:34p.m., Chairperson announced that she was closing the public hearing.

Phil Durno made a motion to grant Mr. Caron a six-month extension to complete the repairs on the front entrance door and the interior staircase railing remaining on the housing code violation list; Rene D'Argento seconded the motion; it was voted all in favor to grant a six month extension to complete these repairs.

Master Plan Implementation Team – Additional Initiatives for the BOH

Mark Mathews of the Master Plan Implementation Team informed the Board that the MPIT is in the process of sending out to specific committees some new and updated initiatives. He stated that the MPIT went through and found some areas on the Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) and also on the “Toward a More Resilient and Sustainable Pepperell Report” that are related to the Board of Health. MPIT Worksheets were recently sent to Chairperson LaFleur which including two recommendations on the Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) and six recommendations on the “Toward a More Reliable Pepperell Report.” Mr. Mathews noted that similar to the previous Master Plan recommendations on public education now there are other new subjects some of which are regarding tick-borne and mosquito transmitted diseases; and supporting the implementation of DPH’s Mass in Motion and other Wellness Programs to increase community resilience. All these new recommendations promote a much more robust opportunity to change and create new ideas that the Board of Health can accomplish together with other responsible parties moving forward.

Chairperson LaFleur noted that she forwarded copies of these MPIT worksheets to each Board Member. Mr. Mathews briefly recapped a few of the recommendations. He stated that the Master Plan requires tracking and reporting of the implementation of recommendations and they need to establish an initial baseline status report in April, post it on the town web site and report on the progress at the Annual Town Meeting. Discussion ensued on creating a more informative website and perhaps implementing Civic Meetings on various health topics. The Board concluded that they will continue to review the MPIT worksheets and be prepared to discuss in further detail at their next meeting.

Review Sample of 2021 Tobacco Sales Regulation – Sale of Tobacco and Vape Products

Chairperson LaFleur informed the Board that on February 17th she attended the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) zoom meeting to review the State’s new sample tobacco and vaping product regulations. She noted that all Board members were forwarded a copy of these sample state regulations along with a Tobacco Policy Summary Checklist. In a brief review, it was noted that these were a sample of regulations that towns could draft for their community. The changes in yellow were at a state level and the ones in green were at a local level.

Ms. LaFleur noted that back in March 2020, D.J. Wilson the MMA Tobacco Control Director and Public Health Liaison was scheduled to meet with our Board but because of COVID the meeting was postponed. Currently there are no adopted town tobacco and vaping product

regulations in the town of Pepperell. However, we are overseen by the state; where the state will do spot checks and if fines are implemented the funds go directly to the state.

Ms. LaFleur had requested Trish DeLorey to reach out to Joan Hamlet, the Director of the Central Mass. Tobacco Control Alliance who represents 34 local communities. Ms. DeLorey reported that she spoke with Ms. Hamlet recently and requested that the town of Pepperell be notified the next time membership opens up to join this alliance. It was unclear why the Town of Pepperell declined the last two RFP's but moving forward our office will be contacted. Ms. Hamlet reported that out of all the communities Pepperell and Lunenburg were the only two towns that declined.

Discussions ensued among the Board Members regarding the ever-changing tobacco regulations as new products are constantly being introduced. Board concluded the challenges it faces in keeping the tobacco and flavor products inaccessible to the youth. Many questions were raised on how to adopt and enforce tobacco and vaping product regulations and the advantages of joining the Central Mass. Tobacco Control Alliance.

It was agreed that Trish DeLorey will reach out to D.J. Wilson, Director of the Municipal Tobacco Technical Assistance Program and invite him to a Board meeting to discuss the current tobacco and vaping product sales regulations with them.

OLD BUSINESS:

2020 Annual Town Report for the Pepperell Board of Health

Chairperson LaFleur stated that the 2020 Annual Town Report was completed and ready to be submitted to the Town Clerk. It was noted that the NABH's 2020 Report on the Town of Pepperell was delayed and not received prior to completion of the Annual Town Report. Therefore, the NABH 2020 Report will be posted on our website and not included in our Annual Town Report. Ms. D'Argento questioned why a summary of the PBOH's unmet needs and objectives were not included in our Annual Town Report. Discussion ensued on where to obtain and how to track information in identify the needs of the community. On a motion made by Renee D'Argento and seconded by Phil Durno; it was voted to send the 2020 Annual Town Report to the Town Clerk as written and to post Nashoba Associated Board of Health's 2020 Report on the Town of Pepperell to our website.

Review Revised FY2022 Budget Reflecting the proposed Social Worker Position

Chairperson LaFleur suggested to the Board that it may be more beneficial to take a different approach in requesting a Social Worker position. She recommended that the Board of Health meet with the Select Board prior to meeting with the Finance Committee on March 17th. She felt it may be more advantageous to receive the support of the Select Board prior to meeting with the Finance Committee. Discussion continued on the best way to promote the social worker position. Ms. LaFleur directed Trish DeLorey to contact the Select Board office and request to be put on their next meeting agenda to discuss a proposed Social Worker position. She asked Trish to invite Susan McCarthy from the Council on Aging as well.

Ms. LaFleur noted that she revised the FY2022 Budget to reflect an additional \$65,000 for a social worker position; but will now leave the FY2022 Budget as approved on January 21, 2021 at \$91,392.25. She acknowledge the town's limited funds and felt that if this Social Worker position was approved by the Finance Committee perhaps the funding for the position should be shared between other departments as well.

HEALTH AGENT COMMENTS:

COVID-19 Updates:

Chairperson LaFleur stated that Health Agent Kalene Gendron had another commitment and was unable stay for the entire meeting. Ms. LaFleur read Ms. Gendron's written report detailing her update on COVID-19. In Ms. Gendron's report, it is noted that the local BOH Clinics will no longer play a role in administering vaccines unless they can supply 750 doses per day, five days a week and be opened to all Massachusetts residents. At this time Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) does not have anything planned. The vaccine continues to be an issue because of supply, and the State continues to open up appointments as allowed. As of March 1st, changes have begun and on March 22nd, per public health data, there may be another transition between phases. The Mass. Department of Public Health website is, and continues to be, the best location for this information.

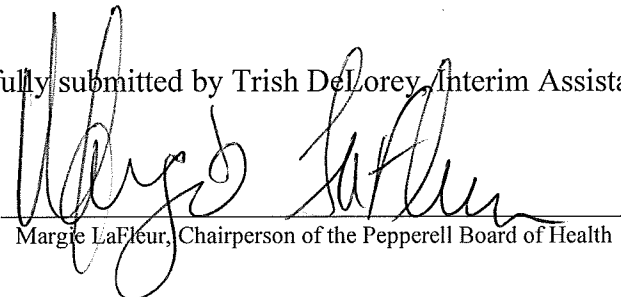
FUTURE MEETING:

The next PBOH meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 5p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Phil Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento, it was voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Trish DeLorey, Interim Assistant to the Board of Health

Signed: 
Margie LaFleur, Chairperson of the Pepperell Board of Health

Renee D'Argento, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health

Phillip Durno, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health