

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
February 14, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC) – present, Richard Volpe (RV) – via phone, Dr. Louis Fazen (LF) – via phone

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr. (KL) Health Agent

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

Joan Hamlett (JH) Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance

Joseph Daou, Jonathan Daou (JD) Sturbridge Gas

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order; LC reads open meeting dialogue.

2:02 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the January 10, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) Meeting are reviewed. LF has a question regarding wording on the 2:22pm note regarding Into the Grain; all agree to edit the note to read “...good to proceed with their application” for clarity.

2:07 PM – RV motions to accept the January 10, 2023 minutes with the additional language; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:08 PM – New Business – Office and COVID updates – KL states that annual permit renewals are almost complete; the annual SMRP grant survey is in progress and will be completed shortly. KL states that the COVID case numbers are mild; there are currently 3 confirmed cases in town, all in vaccinated individuals, with no cases in children under 12 and no hospitalizations. KL states that the Tattoo Festival is upcoming in late March, and the town is seeing the return of previously-annual events put on hold during COVID.

2:13 PM – New Business – Appointment of Embargo Agent – LC states that Craig Moran’s 3-year appointment as Embargo Agent is up for renewal. KL states that the Embargo Agent is a volunteer position, and responds to embargo calls, typically on the Mass Pike or Interstate 84.

2:15 PM – RV motions to reappoint Craig Moran as Embargo Agent for 3 years. LC 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:16 PM – New Business – Tobacco Control Coalition – JH, director of the Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance, introduces herself to the Board. LC states that the Board needs to appoint a Tobacco Control Alliance member in order for the coalition to operate in Sturbridge. KL states that the goal of working with the coalition is for their agents to complete tobacco inspections, and for the Sturbridge BOH to handle any enforcement needed. JH states that the coalition would send a representative to any enforcement hearing, court date, etc. that the Board would be involved in, and that the coalition is able to coordinate any required Federal or State

actions. KL, JH, and the Board discuss inspection processes and state-mandated fines and reporting for offenses. LC states that there is concern around a specific violation due to lack of an appointed agent from the coalition, which could potentially invalidate the inspection, and thus the violation. KL states that if appointed by the Board, the coalition would complete tobacco inspections and enforcements, with all notifications coming through the BOH. LC suggests an open-ended appointment.

3:03 PM – LC motions to appoint the Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance as agents for tobacco inspections and enforcement in Sturbridge, with all orders coming from the Board of Health. RV 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

3:05 PM – New Business – Sturbridge Gas Citation – JH explains the tobacco violation hearing process; Sturbridge Gas was issued a citation for a tobacco sale to a minor. JH recommends that in this case that the issued order be disregarded and changed to a warning due to a procedural error, and the coalition will move forward with the required reinspection. JD and JH discuss the violation and issues around tobacco vendors and products offered for sale.

3:27 PM – LC motions to reduce the Sturbridge Gas violation citation to a warning due to procedural error. RV 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

3:30 PM – New Business – Lake Road Property – KL states that there is a neighbor complaint regarding the potential of people residing on an agricultural property; KL states that he spoke with the individuals on the agricultural property regarding drafting a letter requesting a BOH hearing about residing on the property temporarily while working on the farm. All Board members agree to hold the hearing if requested.

3:34 PM – New Business – Curboy Junkyard – KL states that the property was previously unoccupied, and no Title 5 inspection was completed; someone is now residing on the property, and KL suggests sending a letter regarding the need for a required Title 5 inspection. All Board members agree to this action.

3:35 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond well pollution updates – no updates.

3:35 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive updates – no updates.

3:35 PM – Old Business – Landfill capacity updates – no updates.

3:37 PM – LF inquires about shifting the BOH meeting times moving forward to accommodate participation in the twice-monthly DPH webinar Tuesdays at 3 PM. LC states that Tuesdays are the best meeting days due to LS's current schedule; RV suggests shifting the meeting time to Tuesdays at 1 PM. All agree.

3:40 PM – Set next meeting – KL states that the next proposed meeting is March 14, 2023 at 1 PM; all agree.

3:45 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd; AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant