

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 10, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC), Richard Volpe (RV)

Members Absent: Dr. Louis Fazen

Others Present:

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

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:02 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the December 13, 2022 Board of Health (BOH) Meeting are reviewed.

2:04 PM – RV motions to accept the December 13, 2022 minutes as drafted; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, RV; unanimous.

2:04 PM – New Business – Office and COVID updates – KL states that the COVID case numbers remain similar to recent months, with the public health nurses processing a couple cases per week; there are still cases of RSV and the flu in town due to it being cold and flu season. KL states he met with the Town Administrator (TA) and other affected departments and staff regarding how to better conduct the annual permit renewals town-wide. KL states that the Health Inspector is progressing well, and will be handling temporary food events on her own moving forward; training is upcoming for new inspectional software.

2:07 PM – New Business – Budget discussion – KL provides updates regarding the FY2024 budget process; departments have submitted proposed budgets to the TA and are waiting to hear back; the TA will be presenting the entire budget to the Finance Committee for review. KL states that he included wording to increase the department's administrative assistant to 35 hours per week, to bring the position in line with the other administrative assistant positions in town. KL also states that the increased food establishment permitting fees should add approximately \$13,000 to the BOH budget.

2:18 PM – New Business – Tastefully Ted discussion – LC states that nonprofit organizations had not previously been charged permitting fees; KL states that he wanted to confirm this was still the case, as nonprofit events had not been held since COVID began, but are starting to be held again; LC and RV agree that the fee waiver still applies.

2:22 PM – New Business – Into the Grain discussion – KL states that Deep Roots Distillery is looking to open an axe-throwing establishment in the mill building, and had spoken with the Health Department in August regarding renovations and the potential for using a shared kitchen. KL states that Deep Roots met with the TA and Health, Building, and Fire departments on

January 10, 2023 to determine needs for opening the new business; requirements were discussed and Deep Roots is good to proceed with their application.

2:25 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond well pollution updates – LC states that she will be meeting with Mr. Zoto (resident), Rep. Smola, and the TA on January 12, 2023 to discuss what steps they would like Rep. Smola to advocate for; LC states that the town has exhausted what a municipality can achieve, and the next steps should be taken by the state; RV agrees that moving things to the state for intervention is the next step. KL plans on attending the January 12th meeting with LC.

2:32 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive updates – KL states there are no updates at this time.

2:33 PM – Old Business – Landfill capacity study – KL states that the DPW and BOH plan to split the cost of equipment purchasing; he has reached out to EA Engineering to advise DPW and BOH regarding the cut and fill process at the landfill, along with other potential improvements. KL, LC, and RV discuss potential methods of funding for the equipment, to be looked into moving forward.

2:42 PM – New Business – Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) appointment letters – letters appointing KL as a member of the CCPH Oversight Board, and RV as an alternate member of the CCPH Oversight Board are signed by LC as BOH Chairwoman.

2:50 PM – New Business – Hayloft Steppers – LC states that residents have been making noise and disturbance complaints regarding the Hayloft Steppers property in town; concerned residents are bringing information to the Select Board, Police Department, and other departments throughout town; there is no BOH permitting involved with the business, but there may be discussion with the board or Health Department.

2:57 PM – Set Next Meeting – KL states that the next meeting is proposed for February 14, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

2:59 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd; AIF: LC, RV; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sherris

Health Department Administrative Assistant