

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 23, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

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

Laura Sherris (LS), Health Department Administrative Assistant

Denise Morgan (DM), Brush It Off Paint & Sip Bar

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:02 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) meeting are reviewed. LF requests an addition regarding discussion of a potential Recycling Center study to be requested via warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting.

2:04 PM – RV motions to accept the December 12, 2023 minutes with the added Recycling Center study language; LF 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:04 PM – New Business – 2023 Annual Town Report – All review a draft of the 2023 Annual Report of the Board of Health; LC, LF, and RV make suggestions regarding information to include and areas from previous reports to be omitted due to irrelevancy. LS states she will update the draft with the Board's suggestions.

2:25 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates – KL states that CCPH members are working on adding a part-time position to supplement the existing Outreach Coordinator position. All discuss aspects of CCPH to be included in the Annual Town Report.

2:33 PM – New Business – Brush It Off Paint & Sip Bar – updates – KL states that he and Health Inspector Molly Tuller visited the location and feel that BOH permitting of the establishment is likely doable. DM states she is getting a bar-top refrigerator for snacks such as prepackaged cheese and nut packs to add to her existing offerings; tabletop signs will display the in-house bar menu as well as QR codes and menus for patrons to purchase food from Altruist Brewing Company, Deep Roots Distillery, and Micknuck's Fresh Marketplace; employee runners will be available to pick up customers' food orders. LC, LF, and RV agree that DM's plans are sufficient to grant a BOH permit.

2:48 PM – LC motions to grant Brush It Off Paint & Sip Bar a Bar Establishment permit as presented at the January 23, 2024 Board of Health Meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:53 PM – New Business – 51 Bennetts Road Deed Restriction – KL presents a deed restriction document for 51 Bennetts Road to the Board. KL states that the deed restriction limits any dwelling on the property to two bedrooms as the property has a tight tank septic system that can support no more than that. KL states that the deed restriction has already been recorded with the county and all that is needed is the Board’s permission for KL to sign off on the property’s pending building permit. LC, LF, and RV agree to grant BOH approval of the building permit.

3:00 PM – New Business – Soup to Nuts Café – KL states that Soup to Nuts Café is currently operating without a Food Establishment permit. KL states that the Health Department received confirmation of receipt of a certified letter sent to Soup to Nuts Café regarding the deficient permitting but to date no action has been taken by the business to correct the issues. KL inquires if the Board would like to hold a permit hearing for Soup to Nuts Café at the February BOH meeting; LC, LF, and RV agree that they would like the business owner to appear in front of the Board to determine next steps.

3:16 PM – New Business – New office hours – KL states that the Select Board changed the town’s 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM “late night” day from Tuesdays to Mondays; this change was passed by the Select Board upon initial presentation without review or consultation with many town departments. LC states that the Board has the option to set their own hours; all agree to consider potential adjustment of Health Department hours.

3:39 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant