

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
July 18, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Members Absent: Richard Volpe (RV)

Others Present:

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

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

Mary Carpenter (MC) Community Health Coordinator, Charlton Coalition for Public Health

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:00 PM – Review Minutes – LC suggest holding the review of the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes in abeyance as LF was not present at the June meeting and RV is not present at the current meeting for any comments; LF agrees.

2:02 PM – New Business – Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) – Community Health Coordinator – LC, LF, and MC introduce themselves; MC describes her professional background working with different community members, including seniors and children, and outlines some of the services she is able to provide, including coordination with agencies that can assist community members with housing, mental health, food, fuel, and financial assistance, among other services. LC, LF, and MC discuss the lack of knowledge in the community about services and assistance available to adults of all ages, though many are aware of services for children and seniors; all discuss potential ways to publicize the availability of services through MC and CCPH.

2:28 PM – LC motions to appoint Mary Carpenter as Community Health Coordinator in the Town of Sturbridge through the Charlton Coalition for Public Health; LF 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous. All continue to discuss outreach and publicity opportunities; KL suggests that MC attend the upcoming National Night Out as the Health Department attends each year as an outreach opportunity; LS states she can create a brochure or handout outlining available services.

2:41 PM – New Business – Office and CCPH Updates – KL states the department has been utilizing the services of CCPH Regional Health Inspector Emily Quinn for beach testing and hotel and housing inspections; KL states that food inspections are on track for the year; KL states that the Fiscal Year 2023 budget has been closed. LC asks if there are any updates regarding business closures; KL states that Saw Dust Coffee House and Thai Place are currently closed indefinitely due to a fire in the shared building; KL states that Village Pizza is currently closed after a burst water pipe and that they are working on mitigation and unsure of reopening timeline; KL states that the Subway located at the Xtra Mart location on Charlton Road is closed

permanently after renovations at the location, as Xtra Mart is now be running their own sandwich shop. KL states that there have been several exceedances during this summer's beach testing due to high rainfall affecting coliform levels; he states this week there were no exceedances.

2:58 PM – New Business – Landfill leachate contract update – KL states that the bid opening for the landfill leachate contract was completed earlier in the day on July 18, 2023, and that the only bidder was the same company currently completing the leachate hauling; he states that the town now has fixed pricing for the next three years.

3:01 PM – New Business – Landfill projects- EA proposals – KL states that he received the proposal for groundwater, surface water, and leachate monitoring from EA Engineering, and that upon review it should satisfy all Massachusetts requirements. LF expresses a concern regarding the cost for proposed services; KL states that the previous vendor was not providing all required state reporting, and that the EA Engineering proposal has a higher cost due to the additional monitoring and reporting required to meet state reporting requirements. KL states that he also received the proposal for the intermediate grading plan for the landfill; he states that the grading plan will provide the information needed to plan for fill progression in order to maintain compliance and that it is part of the ongoing capacity analysis and planning. KL states that if the Board is comfortable with the proposed costs, he will present the information to the Town Administrator for review and signoff; LC and LF agree to move forward with the proposals. LF states that he would like to utilize EA Engineering for a Recycling Center study; KL states that funding was requested specifically for a landfill capacity study and approved at a previous Annual Town Meeting, and a similar request would need to be made for a Recycling Center study. KL states that he will request that a representative from EA Engineering attend the September Board of Health meeting to discuss a proposed study and generate an estimate for requested study parameters. LC states that there are still issues to be addressed to maintain landfill compliance and longevity requirements that take precedence over voluntary Recycling Center projects but has no issue with discussing a proposed Recycling Center study.

3:20 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond well pollution updates – all state no updates.

3:21 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive updates – all state no updates.

3:26 PM – LF states that the potential to look at the Senior Center heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system was raised at the Annual Town Meeting; he states that he looked into the topic and discovered that the Senior Center is not intended to serve as a shelter or for longer-term congregation of seniors in the case of environmental issues; KL and LC state that the town's designated emergency shelter is the high school. LF states a concern regarding the senior population during non-emergency environmental events, i.e.: the current wildfire smoke exposure advisory, heat advisories, etc. LC suggests coordinating with the Police Department regarding the next emergency management meeting to get the current status of town resources and plans.

3:36 PM – LF states that Massachusetts is undertaking a strategic highway safety initiative, and states the desire to look into near-term and long-term measures that could be taken in town to increase road safety. KL states that the many of the major roads in town are state highways and

overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT), and that the town is limited in what they can undertake in regards to those roads. KL, LC, and LF discuss potential ways to coordinate with other town departments and DOT to improve safety in areas known to pose issues.

4:06 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; LF 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant