

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
May 9, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

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

Members Absent: Richard Volpe

Others Present:

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

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

1:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

1:00 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the April 11, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) Meeting are reviewed. LF suggests shortening the 2:11 PM note regarding the 54 Allen Road discussion; LC states she is open to rewording the entry for clarity if it is confusing as currently written. LC, and LF discuss the entry and KL provides a refresher regarding the discussion. LC states she would keep the entry as written for thoroughness of the record.

1:10 PM – LF motions to accept the April 11, 2023 minutes as drafted; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

1:10 PM – New Business – Office and COVID updates – KL states that COVID is now considered endemic and contact tracing is ceasing. LC, LF, and KL discuss ongoing general public health reporting processes and availability of data. LC, LF, and KL discuss a recent rabies contact via wild fox; KL states that the response was coordinated between Animal Control and the Health Department, and that the Police Department coordinated the community notification and outreach. KL states that EA Engineering submitted a one-time contract for groundwater monitoring; due to the proposed cost, KL and LC suggest putting the contract out for bid. KL states that he and LC met with the BOH Finance Committee (FinCom) representative regarding the BOH and Landfill/Recycling Center budgets; LC states that the budget process was completed differently this year, with departmental budgets submitted to the Town Administrator (TA) for review and submission to FinCom as opposed to the previous process of departments presenting their proposed budgets directly to FinCom. LC and KL state that an additional 10 hours of administrative assistant support was included in the proposal submitted to the TA, but the proposal was removed from the budget submitted to FinCom; as the additional hours were not included in the final submission, FinCom is not able to officially consider the request. All discuss the ongoing budget process and the upcoming Town Meeting; LC and LF discuss the possibility of meeting again prior to the Town Meeting to review and discuss the issues that will be proposed and voted on; it is agreed that the Board will hold an open meeting on May 23, 2023 at 1:00 PM. KL states he will be meeting with FinCom in

August to discuss the landfill study and longevity plans; he states the FinCom representative was pleased to hear about the progress made so far.

2:05 PM – New Business – Promoting Better Health – Fazen – LF states that he would like to start a project regarding the idea of promoting better health, focusing on safety as the first item. LF states that nationally there has been an increase in pedestrian deaths; previous information collected in Sturbridge indicated citizen desire for better sidewalks, bike lanes, etc. LF states that the Board could look into options for pedestrian safety improvements, and that he would like to consider putting together a task force to research the issue. LC states that public safety is typically coordinated between the Planning, Police, and Fire Departments and suggests that LF begin by coordinating with those departments about what may already be in progress. LF states he will reach out; LC and LF discuss other areas of safety to potentially research. KL states that a public outreach coordinator was recently hired through the Charlton Coalition for Public Health who could potentially help with Board-identified projects.

2:19 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond Road well pollution updates – All state no updates.

2:19 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive updates – All state no updates.

2:20 PM – Old Business – Landfill/Recycling Center updates – KL states that proposals for surveying, grading, and groundwater monitoring are in progress. LF inquires about a potential Recycling Center study; he states he would like to look into how to best keep the Recycling Center open alongside the landfill and update it to align with modern practices if determined to be necessary. KL states he can reach out to EA Engineering for an estimated cost of a Recycling Center study if the Board provides him with parameters, as a study requires identification of specific areas of investigation. All discuss landfill and recycling center costs, regulations, and ongoing monitoring obligations.

2:48 PM – KL states that the Health Agent annual review is due in June and that he will provide information for the Board's review prior to the June BOH meeting.

2:49 PM – LF motions to adjourn the meeting; LC 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant