

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

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

Molly Tuller (MT), Health Inspector

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:00 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates –

KL states that Regional Health Inspector Emily Quinn is currently working in Sturbridge two days a week, focusing primarily on housing and hotel inspections; Outreach Coordinator Mary Carpenter has been working with the migrants sheltered in Sturbridge and Sutton. LC states that ten migrant families in Sturbridge were relocated to the Super 8 from the Days Inn. All discuss the Board of Health (BOH) and Health Department roles in the ongoing sheltering process and agree that BOH involvement is limited to matters of public health.

2:15 PM – New Business – MassDOT update – LC presents a letter from MassDOT sent in response to the BOH letter regarding concerns about the intersection of New Boston Road and Route 20; the letter from MassDOT states that they reviewed the intersection and will be installing new signage at the intersection and will be available if the Board and town are interested in pursuing medium-term improvements at the intersection, such as restricting left turns from New Boston Road.

2:21 PM – New Business – SMRP Grant award – KL states that Sturbridge was awarded \$5,950 through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant process. RV asks if Sturbridge is qualifying for the maximum grant amount; KL states that the grant is determined by a points system and that Sturbridge does not currently have the manpower to qualify for all awarded points. LC states she would like the Board to review the points system to help identify areas for improvement or new initiatives.

2:31 PM – Old Business – Walker Pond well pollution updates – KL and LC state no new updates.

2:31 PM – Old Business – South Shore Drive – KL and LC state no new updates.

2:32 PM – Old Business – Landfill/Recycling Center updates – KL states that home compost bins are being sold at the Recycling Center for \$30; the compost bins are leftover from the grant-funded raffle held in 2022, as not all raffle winners claimed their bins.

2:47 PM – Public Health updates – LF states that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has created a respiratory illness dashboard to track information regarding cases of COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and will include information about trends, historic data, and more. All discuss the potential for tuberculosis (TB) infection in the community with the influx of migrants into the commonwealth and town; LC states that the sheltered children in Sturbridge will be tested for TB and lead poisoning, but comprehensive health histories are lacking. LF inquires about current education in the community regarding health matters such as diabetes, smoking, etc.; RV asks if the Health Department currently visits schools; KL states that is no longer occurring; LC states that the Board and department have ongoing access to seniors in the community through the Council on Aging and could pursue outreach and educational opportunities through that avenue. KL states that the Board has often expressed the desire for increased public outreach; LF states he would like to find resources beyond that the Board and department currently have.

3:12 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant