

Sturbridge Board of Health
Meeting Minutes September 12, 2016

Present: Board Members: Linda Cocalis, Robert Audet; Jamie Terry, Interim Health Agent, , and Judy Rask, Administrative Clerk

Absent: Richard Volpe, Board Member

In Attendance: Mr. Lenny Jalbert, Jalbert Engineering

Chairwoman Linda Cocalis opened the meeting at 5:35pm

Minutes

The minutes of October 24, 2016, were reviewed. Bob Audet motioned to approve the minutes as written. Linda Cocalis 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

Request for Appointment of Temporary Administrative Assistant for BOH Office – 15 hrs/wk

Jamie Terry indicated there were many applicants and that she had interviewed five candidates. Two of them topped the list: Cindy Forgit and Mary Plasse. Mary Plasse recently informed Jamie that she had taken another position.

Bob Audet motioned to approve Cindy Forgit as the Temporary Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health which encompasses 15 hours/week starting immediately.

Linda Cocalis 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

Request for Extension of Interim Health Agent

The BOH voted to extend Jamie Terry as interim Health Agent.

Linda Cocalis made a motion to extend the Interim Health Agent, Jamie Terry until December 31, 2016 with no gap in service. Bob Audet 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

72 South Shore Drive—Septic Variance Request

Mr. Jalbert was in attendance at the BOH meeting. The proposed septic system location will maintain a 50' offset to the well onsite at 72 South Shore Drive, a 57' offset to 70 South Shore Drive and a 65' offset to the well located at 68 South Shore Drive. Abutters notification cards were presented by Mr. Jalbert. No additional interested persons were in attendance at the meeting. The Board of Health reviewed the property site plan. Mr. Jalbert discussed that the proposed septic system represents the most protective location possible provided all of the constraints on the property.

Linda Cocalis motioned to accept the variances to the existing wells setback allowing 50' offset to the existing property at 72 South Shore Road, 57' offset to 70 South Shore Road, and 65' offset to 68 South Shore Road.

Bob Audet 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

36 & 38 Warren Drive—Consideration on extension of perc test and deep hole test data

Discussion ensued regarding relations of perc tests and topography of said properties. As there have been no topographical changes to these two properties since the testing that had been previously performed the Board of Health felt there was not a concern.

Linda Cocalis motioned to extend the perc test data indefinitely (as long as the topography of the land does not change) for 36 and 38 Warren Road.

Bob Audet 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

Linda Cocalis made a motion to allow the Health Agent the ability to extend perc test season at his/her discretion, as long as the topography does not change.

Bob Audet 2nd the motion. All in favor 2-0

Agents Report

Old Business

- **Discuss dates to hold public hearing regarding the possible discontinuation of fluoride in the public drinking water.**

A brief discussion ensued regarding the effectiveness of fluoride in the drinking water. Bob Audet will provide documentation on fluoride at the meeting to be scheduled for January 9, 2017.

- **Follow up on training at Empire Village**

It took longer than expected to find someone to comply with the Board of Health's requirement for a person who is versed in Mandarin provide training of the regulations to the establishment's staff. Over 80% of the staff attended and were interactive. Wendi Denning, Inspector, has performed a follow up inspection and found things to be overall in compliance upon her inspection date and time.

- **Sturbridge Coffee House**

Inspector Denning requested Jamie Terry inform the Board of a few outstanding issues and concerns that relate to interpretation of the Federal Food Code at this establishment. The Health Agent will work on seeking clarification and resolving these issues.

New Business

- **Reorganization continued exploration**

Linda Cocalis and Jamie Terry met with Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator and Barbara Barry, Finance Director, regarding the reorganization of the Board of Health resulting from Lynn Girouard's leave of absence until April 2017.

The Board of Health discussed the most responsible use of resources for the Town. To date the Health Department has issued permits to 236 year round establishments. Each of these establishments by law require at least two inspections/year. A part time inspector (as is currently employed) is not equipped with the numbers of hours to handle this volume of permits per year. It is impracticable to pay the Health Agent a higher rate of pay to perform the same tasked job that a Health Inspector is trained to

perform. After much discussion, including the discussion that the current Health Agent has been performing the job for the past 11 months virtually concern free at 18-23 hours per week, Linda Cocalis made a motion to propose to reduce the number of hours of the Health Agent from full time to 20 hours/week, while increasing the number of hours for both the health inspector position and the administrative assistant position to full time. Bob Audet seconded the motion. All in favor 2-0.

The memo detailing the intent of the reorganization is to be sent to Leon Gaumont and Barbara Barry prior to the Special Town Meeting. It is possible that Linda Cocalis and Jamie Terry may be requested to sit before the Finance Committee and the BoS to discuss in further detail.

Recycling Center/Landfill

An email regarding the Recycling Dividends Program was handed out. This email discusses changes to the points system that the municipalities can qualify for. The points earned allow the town to expand their waste reduction programs and earn more points in the coming year.

Correspondence

A copy of Senator Anne Gobi's letter written on behalf of the Charlton community to Casella concerning contamination of its water supplies was reviewed. It was noted that well contamination may also be happening in the Sturbridge and Southbridge areas. Discussion ensued about Senator Gobi meeting with Casella about Charlton's contaminated water and the importance of the surrounding towns being invited to this meeting. It would be most helpful for everyone to work together to resolve the water, odor and noise problems resulting from the Southbridge landfill.

Linda Cocalis will write a response letter to Senator Gobi.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Rask