

Sturbridge Board of Health
Meeting Minutes September 12, 2016

Present: Board Members: Linda Cocalis(LC), Robert Audet (RA), Richard Volpe (RV); Jamie Terry(JT) Interim Health Agent, Wendi Denning (WD) Inspector, and Judy Rask (JR) Administrative Clerk

Absent: None

In Attendance: Michelle Connors, Sturbridge Animal Control; John Jordan, 68A Foote Road, Charlton; Jon Sanborn, 12 Jennings Road, Charlton; Empire Village – Owner -Jin-Xiang (Jimmy) Ren, 446 Main Street, Sturbridge; John Gatti, 113 Briarwood Ave, Southbridge

Minutes

LC noted that in the August 15th minutes under the section “Southbridge Landfill”, the vote was to have the letters sent out and not just drafted.

LC motioned to approve the August 15th meeting minutes with this amendment.
RA 2nd the motion. All in favor 3-0

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

Because Lynn Girouard had accepted the Interim Town Clerk position, an ad was placed on the town website and bulletin board. The only application received was from Cindy Forgit who currently is the Administrative Assistant for the Building Department. Ms Forgit is looking for additional hours and due to scheduling limitations may only be able to work 13 hours. Her qualifications were reviewed.

LC motioned to accept Cindy Forgit as Temporary Administration Assistant starting immediately.

RA 2nd the motion. All in favor 3-0

Empire Village- Hearing to Discuss Most Recent Food Inspection Violations

WD noted ongoing violations at Empire Village since June 2016 and additional recent violations in August. Several major issues needing to be resolved are: requirement of a ServSafe person, making the sanitizer, and keeping food away from the 3-bay sink area. Because violations continue to exist onsite and Jimmy suggests that there may be a communication issue between WD, the staff and management (particularly as the staff is not fluent in English), discussion ensued about Empire Village hiring either a consultant or a dedicated ServSafe person who speaks the staff’s native language (Mandarin) in order to explain the required regulations and provide training. It was also suggested that ramifications are put in place and that the staff understand the ramifications if they do not follow the procedures.

LC motioned mandating Empire Village within 30 days to find someone who can appropriately train the staff and within 3 weeks get training scheduled, and have WD meet and review ongoing concerns the BOH have had and schedule one day of training.

JT mentioned if it doesn't work, the next step to consider would be to hire someone to come in and do audits once a week (paid by Empire Village). During the discussion the BOH requested that Mr. Xiang not limit the length of the training in order to provide the best resolution to these violations.

LC amended motion to mandating Empire Village within 30 days to select a person for training and have at least 80% staff attend. Within 3 weeks after that, schedule something with WD who can continue with the training and then return another week to review the progress.

RA changed the motion to "find consultant to help with the training". All in favor 2-0

Agents Report

Jean Solaroli had contacted JT to discuss the BOH exploring an interest in removing fluoride from the public drinking water. Shane Moody from Veolia and Greg Morse, DPW, had indicated they would be willing to provide input on this subject. It was agreed to open the topic of fluoride to the public as a hearing agenda for a future meeting.

JT briefly provided update on status of Title 5s. She indicated she has been witness to a great deal of soil testing as of late and has seen an increase in tank and D-Box replacements permit requests.

New Business

Burial Agent: LC motioned to approve Lynn Girouard as Burial Agent for the Town of Sturbridge.

RV 2nd the motion. All in favor 3-0

Animal Control: Michelle Connors, recently sworn in and appointed as the Town of Sturbridge Animal Control Officer, came before the Board of Health this night to discuss her role as Barn Inspector.

LC motioned to appoint Ms. Connors as Barn Inspector for the Town of Sturbridge.

RV 2nd the motion. All in favor 3-0

Hydrogeologist consideration Re: Southbridge Landfill: The Board of Health reviewed the credentials of a possible hydrogeologist who would be hired to review documents regarding the Southbridge landfill. The hydrogeologist would be tasked with document review and would provide recommendations to the Sturbridge Board of Health regarding the Southbridge Landfill.

The Board reviewed the credentials and funding for hiring a hydrogeologist whose task is to do document reviews and provide recommendations to the Sturbridge Board of Health regarding the Southbridge Recycling and Disposal Park (SRDP).

LC motioned that the Board of Health authorize the Chair to approve a contract with Wilcox & Barton to engage the firm, with David Foss serving as lead consultant, to advise the Board of Health on hydrogeological issues regarding the Southbridge Recycling & Disposal Park and to

assist the Board in preparation of relevant comments and submittals to regulatory agencies. The contract will be funded with Board of Health funds, (1) from the escrow account associated with the 2008 Settlement with Southbridge Recycling and Disposal Park, Inc., and (2) authorized by Special Town Meeting on February 22, 2016. The contract will include separate scopes of work as appropriate for these two sources of funding.

RV 2nd the motion. All in favor 3-0

Correspondence

Andrew Pelletier was unable to attend this meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the Southbridge BOH invitation to meet. The concerns raised addressed the interest of the Sturbridge BOH to remain transparent with all matters relating to the Southbridge Landfill. For this reason the Chairwoman requested Mr. Pelletier be invited to discuss the matter before the entire Sturbridge Board of Health in an open and posted BOH meeting.

LC invited comments from invited attendees.

Jon Sanborn, Charlton, member of Charlton Board of Health: Charlton is on a fact finding mission of the Southbridge Landfill as Charlton is also having well water contamination concerns. He noted that Senator Gobi has requested a special meeting on September 15 to discuss concerns of the Charlton residents. He noted that the affected wells are not getting any better and in some cases are worse.

John Jordan, 68A Foot Road, Charlton resident: Expressed concerned about homes with well water contamination and has asked DEP and the Charlton BOH to help with this issue. Concerns also included odor complaints, traffic noise and similar contamination found in the drinking water wells at residential properties in Charlton and monitoring wells found at the Southbridge Landfill. Their monitoring wells and wells at the homes are three times over the limit. Therefore, Mr. Jordan feels strongly that there should not be an expansion of the landfill until and/or if the existing site has been remediated.

John Gatti, a very well informed Southbridge resident, whom has held multiple positions of professional status that have direct relation to the Southbridge Landfill. Mr. Gatti explained the history of the Southbridge landfill and stated their (The Town of Southbridge) contract with Casella is open-ended.

Break: 7:47-7:50 pm

He expressed concern for the Sturbridge community and suggested the following to assist the Sturbridge Board of Health in their endeavors with the Southbridge landfill:

1. Ask the attorney general to come in and review the propriety of the contract.

2. Be concerned for mudslides, etc. Casella is a trash industry.
3. Request immediately the well monitoring at garbage and dump sites. Involve DEP and environmental strike force.
4. Appeal to Senator Gobi to have DEP attorney come onsite.
5. Provide a temporary fix of water to Charlton.
6. Provide a chain of custody.
7. Look into obtaining funding to assist from Energy, Natural Agriculture committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Rask