

Town of Natick

Board of Health

January 10, 2023 via ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Karla H. Sangrey, PE, Chair; Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Vice Chair; Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk

Also Present: Michael K. Boudreau, MPA, RS/REHS, Director of Public Health

Absent: none

Call to Order: Chair Sangrey called the meeting to order via roll call, all members present

Citizens' Concerns: none presented

Discussion and Decision: December 13, 2022 meeting minutes

The draft minutes were reviewed.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to accept the minutes as presented except to correct the meeting start time for January 10, 2023 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

COVID-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) update(s):

Mr. Boudreau said there is an increase in cases of COVID-19, Influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the other respiratory issues, such as the common cold in the Town.

An advisory was sent to Department Heads and the School Department to remind everyone to stay home if sick, encourage mask wearing and continue practicing proper respiratory etiquette including good hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.

Also in the advisory are reminders that vaccines are effective and easily accessible and that free at home COVID-19 test kits are available at the Town Hall, Libraries and the Community Senior Center.

The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) data is showing an increase in virus for our area. This data is always available on the MWRA and the MADPH websites, both of which can also be found on the Natick Health Department webpage.

Discussion and Decision: new Natick Board of Health Regulation Chapter 30- Biological Safety Regulation

Ms. Sangrey said Mr. Boudreau's most current draft is dated January 3, 2023 and appears to need a few typographical corrections. After much research and review, this draft has been formulated using suggested input from the Community and from the Board Members.

Mr. Boudreau said he is presenting this as a final draft for the Board's consideration. He said he believes this regulation is written not to impede progress and at the same time, provides strong protection to public health.

During the Board's discussion, the following points were made:

Among other requirements, the regulation provides:

- Board authority to review distance and to rely on expert opinion
- Risk factors are well mitigated with a lot of other oversight
- A change in operation will require notification and approval by the Board
- Specific wording that nothing above BSL2 designation is allowed
- Existing laboratories will have to be permitted and comply with the regulation
- Board has the ability to come back with changes
- In the event of an incident, Board can require additional testing and/or reporting
- Board can require professional consultation, to be chosen by the Board, for which the applicant will pay

Department staffing was discussed. Mr. Boudreau said more staffing could always be used. He went on to say Health Department staff are considered 'generalists' but the regulation provides the ability to use consultants that we would choose but that the applicant would pay for. Also, the level of oversight and extra work is reflected by the type of laboratory. The initial permitting of the existing laboratories will be labor intensive.

Mr. Boudreau recommends a regulation effective date of May 1, 2023 with a six month period for all existing laboratories to start the application process for a permit by November 1, 2023. This will also allow time for the development of an application as well as process and protocols to be created.

Mr. Boudreau expects a tiered approach for the fee structure and he will make a recommendation at a future Board meeting.

Dr. Delli Colli thanked the community, the staff and the Board members for all the input both broad and specific.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to adopt the new Chapter 30 Biological Safety Regulation to go into effect May 1, 2023.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Dr. Delli Colli made the motion to put the new Chapter 30 Biological Safety Regulation into effect on May 1, 2023 for any new laboratories and allowing a six month time frame, until November 1, 2023, for all current laboratories to begin their application process.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Update(s): Fluoride supply for Town of Natick public water system

Also in attendance: Mr. William Spratt, Interim Director of Public Works
Mr. Anthony Comeau, Supervisor, Water Department

Mr. Spratt stated the information to be provided is not to be considered a recommendation. He and Mr. Comeau updated the Board as follows:

- Due to supply chain issues, fluoride has not been added during the past year
- Nationwide problem
- In the past, Natick has used about one pallet per month
- To avoid service disruption, an available one year back up supply is preferred
- Sporadic delivery has our current supply at four pallets
- No guarantee any more pallets will become available
- Starting too early presents a challenge
- Would like to begin again, but not comfortable without a solid backup supply
- Current cost at least \$68,000.00 annually, compared to \$22,000.00 in past
- We use sodium fluoride
- Supply is only from China, none in Japan right now
- Have tried to get a commitment for regular supply but cannot get a guarantee

The Board thanked Mr. Spratt and Mr. Comeau for attending this meeting and for the important information provided.

Health Department Update(s):

Mr. Boudreau, Ms. Katie Sugarman, Ms. Lizzy Chalfin and Ms. Astrid Dretler will represent the department at The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Eighteenth Annual Natick Community Celebration at the Kennedy Middle School on Monday, January 16, 2023. Katie and Lizzie are an important part of the MLK Planning Team.

Sponsors' of the event are: The Greater Natick Interfaith Leaders Association, Natick Public Schools, Natick METCO Program, SPARK Kindness, Natick 180, Natick Health Department, Natick Pegasus, Natick is United and the Town of Natick.

An interactive display of Prevention and Outreach information will be provided, along with free COVID-19 test kits.

To this date, one interview for the open Sanitarian position has been conducted.

On behalf of the department, Ms. Mishel Caisapanta applied for and was awarded a grant.

The program is called Taking Action on Food Safety and is part of the National Environmental Health Association/U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Grant program. The program will help the department set standards for our food program.

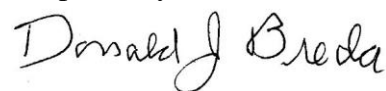
Board Member Update(s): none presented

Next Meeting(s): The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Adjourn: Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to adjourn Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Respectfully submitted,



Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk