

Town of Natick

Board of Health

October 16, 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 noted a quorum was present and called the meeting to order via roll call, Dr. Delli Colli, Mr. Breda and Ms. Sangrey all present remotely

Citizens' Concerns: Mr. James Cosimini told the Board a "little bird in town government" told him the Board of Health was planning to reduce the poultry population in town and this is deeply disturbing to him. He went on to say he has many concerns such as: a euthanasia list, wild geese and ducks, notice to the public, who would do this and how would this take place. Mr. Cosimini made an audio recording of the meeting.

Discussion and Decision: September 12, 2023 meeting minutes

The draft minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to accept the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

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

Discussion: Revisions to Natick Board of Health Regulations Chapter 6 – Horses, Cows, Goats, Swine and Poultry

Mr. Boudreau reviewed the key revision items in a power point presentation.

He said he made the suggested revisions to codify department policies and keep animals humanely using past experience and would like the Board's input. In this work, he also referenced regulations in other local communities as well as, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and Recreation, the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards and the University of Massachusetts Agricultural Extension Program.

Ms. Sangrey requested this item to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion: MA DPH Respiratory Illness Tracking

Mr. Boudreau told the Board that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health created a publicly available link on their web site.

This was done to make available the tracking of three respiratory illnesses that are circulating at this time: COVID-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

This is the link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/respiratory-illness-reporting>

Update:

Biological Safety Permitting process

Mr. Boudreau worked with the Community and Economic Development department to upload the application and information into the town's on-line permitting system.

A letter detailing the application process will be sent to each currently known facility in Natick.

Each facility must begin the application process by November 1, 2023. It is expected that all approved permits will be issued by March 1, 2024 with an annual expiration date of February 28th. The anticipated number of facilities to be permitted is nine.

It is possible a new facility will be built on the site of the former Travel Lodge.

The previously considered site of Neiman Marcus may now become an indoor Pickleball Facility.

Health Department Update(s):

a. COVID-19 Update

A very small supply of COVID-19 vaccine has been ordered with grant funds from the MetroWest Community Health Foundation. The intention is to provide it to underinsured and uninsured residents and to vulnerable populations.

The State supplied free at home test kits have been completely distributed....

Researching whether we will be able to obtain test kits to provide the community.

b. Natick Flu Clinics

Thank you to all our town partners who helped with our flu clinics.

Morse Institute Library, Department of Public Works and Human Services.

Through today, 487 people community members have been vaccinated.

Mr. Breda thanks everyone who worked to make this happen, especially Ms. Heidi Harper, our Public Health Nurse.

Mr. Boudreau added the clinics couldn't happen without the many generous community volunteers, both medical and non-medical.

c. Staff Updates

Mr. Christopher Craig, Environmental Health Agent is completing the process to become a Certified Soil Evaluator

There is a promising candidate for the vacant Sanitarian position.

The position title 'Sanitarian' may be updated to 'Health Agent' in order to better reflect the current nature of the job.

d. Chapter 21 Body Art expiration dates

A warrant will be presented to Fall Annual Town Meeting to adjust the Zoning regulation to increase the locations to which a Body Art Establishment can be permitted.

The permit lengths and expiration dates for Body Art Establishments and Body Art Practitioners will be adjusted to be in line with each other.

e. Fall Annual Town Meeting

Starts Tuesday, October 27, 2023.

Thirty-three articles – three of which are germane to the Board of Health.

Warrant Article #9 Appropriation of Opioid settlement moneys

Warrant Article #22 Amend Zoning Bylaw Body Art Establishments in Downtown Mixed Use (DM) Zoning District

Warrant Article #31 Safe & Fair Reproductive & Gender Affirming Care Access By-Law

f. Arbovirus

Four human cases in Massachusetts this year, none in Natick.

g. Natick 180

November 18th at NHS, Natick will be welcoming psychologist Dr. Lisa Damour to speak on the topic 'Raising Connected and Capable Adolescents.' Dr. Damour is a New York Times best selling author and regular contributor on CBS This Morning. SPARK Kindness is the event lead sponsor, with support from Natick 180, Natick Public Schools, and other community partners. Folks can go to www.sparkkindness.org to register. (More than 500 folks are already registered!)

Natick 180 staff will be in Natick schools in the next few weeks. We will be hosting recovery speakers in NHS health classes on and we will be delivering substance use prevention lessons in Kennedy Middle School MS health classes.

Red Ribbon Week, a national drug and alcohol awareness week, runs Oct. 24th-31st, and Natick 180 staff will be visiting NHS and Middle School lunches to distribute Natick 180 swag and invite youth to sign a banner committing to being drug and alcohol free, one week at a time.

The 2023 administration of the *MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey* will take place in November at both middle schools and the high school. This survey collects important, reliable data about youth supports, behaviors, and attitudes, including those surrounding substance use and mental health. This data is critical to helping the schools, Natick 180, and other community partners in planning interventions, applying for grants, and advocating for resource allocation. Parents will receive letters shortly notifying them of the specific survey dates and what steps to take if they would prefer that their student not take the survey. Special thanks to Dr. Art Fergusson, Bob Anniballi, school principals and teachers for overseeing the administration of this important survey.

Board Member Update(s): None at this time

Next Meeting(s): The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2023

Adjourn: Mr. Breda made a motion to adjourn
Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.
There was no further discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Clerk