



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 5, 2016 – 6:30 PM
Rockport Town Hall Annex

Present: Board members Dr. Sydney Wedmore - Chair, Dr. Russell Sandfield, Dr. Sydney Jimenez, Dr. Bruce Cohen, Health Agent Leslie Whelan, Assistant Town Administrator Mitchell Vieira, and Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters. Also present was Rockport School Nurse Wanda Visnick.

Absent: Food Inspector Laura Osmond.

6:30 p.m.

Community Concerns:

None

161 South Street - House Renovations – Bedroom Count:

General Contractor Andy Stevenson requested definitive bedroom count/determination of current 1-bedroom cottage (part of condo complex) that the owner would like to convert to a 2-bedroom. Records from 1993 show the septic was designed as a 2 bedroom/220 gpd septic system; Title 5 reports over the years on file differ on bedroom count. Several engineers advised him that the original Certificate of Compliance (1993) would be the best indication as to design capacity. Dr. Wedmore stated that in the absence of definitive proof, Health Agent at the time (Ken Capel) must have recorded it properly and stated that the property should be considered a valid 2-bedroom property (1 small bedroom and 1 loft bedroom) with a 2-bedroom deed restriction; Dr. Sandfield concurred. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to accept; Dr. Sandfield moved to approve; Dr. Jimenez seconded, and the board voted unanimously to classify the property as a 2-bedroom home with a deed restriction.

Anti-Idling Law – Update on Signage and Public Information:

Continuation of March meeting on anti-idling signage and locations, previously determined to be Transfer Station and Bearskin Neck. DPW Director Joe Parisi to determine best location at Transfer Station. Dr. Wedmore stated that a 5-minute idling limit sign be placed at the beginning of Bearskin Neck. Dr. Wedmore inquired of Wanda Visnick if the school is no-idling; she will check and report back. Dr. Sandfield suggested that a “No Standing” sign might be an option for those shop owners who do not want any idling at all. Discussion that perhaps the shop owners should work together on additional awareness or idling issues in addition to the Town’s 5-0minute idling signage.

Narcan-Update:

Nurse Wanda Visnick stated that the Superintendent of Schools Rob Liebow and School Committee are in favor of Narcan availability at the schools. Wanda is trained and stated that 4-5 nurses will be trained at the beginning of the school year before the program rollout. Initial plan is one dose per school. Stated that Chief Horvath may be interested in training (for epi pens

and Narcan) for Police Department. Trainer coming into the community for Narcan in May. An outside company to give Grades 7 and 10 students a confidential substance abuse screening in the form of a confidential conversation with nurse or the school psychologist; any written information will be immediately shredded and not be kept on file; findings will be reported to DPH. Stated that these screenings have just been signed into law and will be mandatory within two years. The nurses will be trained in administering test and reporting the data. Wanda will be researching substance abuse treatment initiatives in the area. Dr. Cohen suggested health education and parent training, coaches, etc.

Nurse Visnick advised the Board that on November 8th, Dr. Ruth Potee from Greenfield will be meeting with local physicians in Cape Ann in the a.m.; to discuss Narcan mid-day at the new Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. Substance abuse expert, talks about neuroscience, the brain, addiction, etc.

Food Inspector Report:

Food Inspector absent; will report at May meeting.

Health Agent Report:

Sandy Bay Estates Update:

Town Counsel has drafted an amended civil complaint and a request for a preliminary injunction requiring that all outstanding sanitary code violations at the property be remedied. Counsel should be filing the complaint this week and will request a hearing at the court's earliest convenience. Next reinspection scheduled for this Thursday for all outstanding complaints that have been corrected.

Septic-Related:

Lobster Pool:

Soil testing may commence soon; hopefully by April 15th.

Train Idling Complaint:

Resident complaint about train engines idling overnight. Board members advised Health Agent to contact the MBTA to ask their policy and practice. Health Agent said that the Board of Selectmen's office has made calls to MBTA; she will coordinate with their efforts so as to not overlap. Wanda Visnick stated that she hears engines idling from Jerden's Lane beginning at 3:10 a.m.; Dr. Cohen stated he hears them early from his home on Hadow Road. Dr. Wedmore asked Health Agent also ask MBTA their starting time for the trains, how long idling is done before leaving the station.

Emergency Preparedness:

Health Agent does an annual call-down to people included in the people in our emergency dispensing site plans and another drill (1 phone call to the school asking if we can use the school as a dispensing site); after the drill, typically sends a report in; deadline is coming; Agent asked for assistance. Dr. Wedmore suggested having the Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters take over the task; Health Agent to give Marianne the details/info and she will do.

Board of Health Fees:

Agent continues cataloging tasks and amount of time expended per category (processing permits, plan reviews, etc.); will report on next month's meeting.

87/89 Thatcher Road – House Renovations, Bedroom Count:

Greg Cefalo, builder looking for building permit to be approved. Property consists of a small cottage and a former small cottage with 1 system (septic tank and a treatment tank) shared on one lot; cottage #1 was allowed to build on (a den); contractor asking cottage #2 on the lot could do the same. Leach field will not support another bedroom. One of the houses was expanded at the time that they were putting in the new septic system. Each cottage was originally 2 bedrooms. The system was designed for total of 4 bedrooms. Discussion resulted in approval for cottage #2 to add on but that there be a maximum of 4 bedrooms total for both structures and that the structures be recorded separately as each having a 2-bedroom deed restriction so that any potential buyers in the future know that bedrooms cannot be added. Dr. Wedmore made motion to approve with deed restrictions on both with 2-bedrooms and a total of 4 bedrooms for both; Dr. Sandfield voted to approve, Drs. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to approve with each house having a 2-bedroom deed restriction.

Administrative Assistant Update:

Marianne Peters updated the Board on several areas

Anti-idling/Air Quality Efforts – retained anti-idling information from DEP and will distribute in Town Hall, Annex, Library, and has asked Chamber of Commerce permission to put the anti-idling pamphlets in the Visitor Sheds in Town as well as the Chamber's website. Yes to all.

Also working with the local newspapers/reporters on publicizing and promoting awareness of the anti-idling restrictions and state law. Marianne to give Wanda info for the students' back-packs.

Diaper Drive:

Working with Public Health Nurse and Open Door Pantry on donations to assist families in need. Several organizations, residents, and employees have generously donated. Drive runs through April 27th. Marianne working with local newspapers/reports on publicizing and promoting the event and the need for local families.

FOG/Fats, Oils, & Grease Checklist/Procedure:

Continued work with the DPW and Food Inspector on preparing for the new establishments on the FOG rules as well as current ones so that all establishments have a smooth transition to the new licenses/fees/paperwork. Will come up with instruction sheet and packet of info for establishments that need to dispose of fats, oil, and grease.

Operation & Maintenance on Alternative Systems:

Research and records done on all alternative septic systems in Town; 66 in total and all are diligently maintained with the question of two possibly in non-compliance; further investigation will show if they are in non-compliance.

Narcan: Looking into sources of potential grant monies and substance abuse training and any funding available for Narcan/opioid program.

Board discussed Narcan subscriptions and that Gloucester likely has a great training program; Dr. Cohen mentioned that we should find out about adult training for this; perhaps from

Gloucester. He asked if we've ever met w/the Gloucester BOH; Dr. Wedmore said that in the past we have and that we could do something jointly with them as well.

Review of Minutes of February 23 and March 8 Meetings:

February 23, 2016 Minutes:

Health Agent Leslie Whelan asked for 2 changes to the minutes with respect to Anti-Idling Section/DPW signs and Housing sections; changes noted. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to accept; Dr. Sandfield moved to approve; Dr. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes with changes/corrections noted. Dr. Cohen abstained as he was absent at the February 23rd meeting.

March 8, 2016 Minutes:

Change requested: Health Agent stated that upon reviewing the minutes of March 8th meeting with respect to Dr. Wedmore inquiring if she had ever witnessed (first-hand) sewage back-up at Sandy Bay Estates (to which she originally replied she had not) she stated that she has since recalled that she did in fact see sewage at the property (March 8th minutes will cross-reference this paragraph as well). Recollection/changed noted. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to accept; Dr. Sandfield moved to approve; Dr. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes with updated information noted. Dr. Cohen abstained as he was absent at the March 8th meeting. Drs. Sandfield and Jimenez recommended that Attorney Kiely be notified of this recollection/information.

Next Meeting Date: May 10, 2016

Dr. Sandfield made a motion to adjourn; Dr. Jimenez moved to accept, Dr. Wedmore seconded, and it was voted unanimously to adjourn.

8:25 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.