

SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES AUGUST 24, 2016

The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, August 24, 2016 was called to order at 6:05 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Alison Oxton, RN, MSN, and Marianne Hartmann, RN, Board Members, and Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health.

The minutes of July 20, 2016 were amended and accepted.

Martha Dansdill began the meeting by stating that the Conservation Commission determined that under the Wetland Protection Act and due to the vegetation growth that there should be no beach fires allowed on Phillips Beach. The Town may seek an appeal through a Notice of Application (NOA) but since this is a complicated process it is believed that the Town will not appeal the issue.

Beach fires that are permitted through the Swampscott Fire Department (SFD) will still be allowed on Fisherman's Beach as the Conservation Commission has no jurisdiction there. Since permitting has begun, there has been one (1) permit requested and one (1) complaint registered. The Health Department is logging each odor, dust, or noise complaint registered as a nuisance complaint and will share this information with the SFD.

The Board of Health will invite George Allen and Amy Friend Roberts back to a future meeting to discuss their opinions as to whether the conditions of smoke odors are improving.

Martha Dansdill compiled a beach fire survey list for communities north of Boston. Most communities do not allow open beach fires at all and gas grills must be permitted. The only exception was Nahant.

Martha Dansdill mentioned that she had wished to discuss the ash pit at the Saugus Wheelabrator facility. This is an unlined ash pit housing toxic waste material that can wash into the ocean at anytime. The Saugus Board of Health was to discuss expansion plans for the ash pit but the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) is reviewing the facility. As Swampscott has used the Wheelabrator facility in the past, Ms. Dansdill was ready to ask the Swampscott Board of Health to support the Saugus Board of Health regarding this matter, however, all discussion has been tabled at this time pending the EPA review.

Chairwoman Dansdill spoke of a Bill regarding the use of flame retardants in furniture that was to be presented in the State House of Representatives. Unfortunately, the Bill was not presented before the Representatives broke for summer vacation so it has died out.

Health Director, Jeff Vaughan, informed the Board that the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District found a mosquito infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) in a trap in Swampscott. Mr. Vaughan has sent out a robocall to the residents, updated the website with educational materials, and had additional traps set up.

Jeff Vaughan explained a new program instigated by the Attorney General's Office which helps communities reclaim abandoned properties. The Health Inspector, Building Inspector, and Fire Chief inspect the property and write a report based on each department's code violations giving the owner seven to ten (7-10) days to bring the property up to code. After the ten (10) days the Attorney General's Office takes over, and gives the owner an additional seven to ten (7-10) days to complete the tasks before starting the receivership process. At this point, the owner has the chance to buy back the property or it will go to auction.

The Hiltz Waste Disposal Company has notified the Town of Swampscott that it will be breaking the rubbish and recycling contract as of September 30, 2016. Jeff Vaughan has worked with the Salem Procurement Office and RFQ (Request for Quote) are due back next Wednesday, August 31, 2016. The Town is requesting the new contractor to continue using the Covanta trash disposal facility and, optionally, the Caraustar recycling facility that it is currently using.

Since announcing that they will be leaving the Town, there have been some issues with service. Yard waste pick-up scheduled for the week of August 8-12 was hampered by heat issues, faulty machinery, and lack of manpower pushing the operation back one week. The following week, there was an issue with recycling which only set the pick-up back by a day.

Beach testing has been great until this past week when two (2) beaches, Kings and Whales, had to be retested. Neither beach needed to be closed.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, spoke of the Opioid Drug Task Force meeting which is planning to present a fair where they hope to have a public speaker similar to Professional Celtic Basketball Star, Chris Herren, a recovering addict, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker will be invited to speak about the State's Opioid crisis, and a movie about opioid addiction produced by the Wahlberg brothers association. Various thoughts about when the fair would take place include: at the end of September, around the Holidays or in conjunction with the risk assessment survey in the spring.

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The next Athletic Field Advisory meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 29, 2016. Marianne Hartmann, RN, is the liaison for the Board of Health.

The Board mentioned a recent news clip regarding the costs of Epipens rising exponentially and how that affects students and parents.

Martha Dansdill stated that fifty-seven point nine percent (57.9%) of the State's population has now adopted the Regulation to change the Minimum Sale of Tobacco Sales to Age 21. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has come up with a new regulation for tobacco sales that includes nicotine delivery products such as e-cigarettes which states that no one under the age of eighteen (18) may purchase these products.

Martha Dansdill will re-edit the recycling brochure.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall on 22 Monument Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.