

SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES JULY 20, 2016

The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, July 20, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Marianne Hartmann, RN, Board Member, Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health, and Kathryn Larsen, Recycling Development Coordinator, of Bay State Textiles Recycling Rebate Program.

The minutes of June 16, 2016 were accepted.

Martha Dansdill introduced Kathryn Larsen by explaining that the Town of Swampscott has put limits on residential trash disposal and implemented recycling awareness making this program timely.

Kathryn Larsen, Recycling Development Coordinator, of Bay State Textiles Recycling Rebate Program, stated that each year in Massachusetts five hundred twenty million (520,000,000) pounds of textiles are disposed into the waste stream. Each average American throws out eighty-one (81) pounds of textiles. Ninety-five percent (95%) of these materials could be recycled providing they are not wet or contaminated with toxic waste. Textiles include clothing (in any condition), shoes, purses, stuffed animals, fabric and etcetera.

There are fifty-four (54) districts in Eastern Massachusetts currently participating in the Bay State Textile Recycling Rebate Program. Bay State Textiles Recycling Rebate Program works primarily with local schools in these communities as fundraisers.

Collection boxes are placed in various locations throughout town and emptied on a weekly basis by a truck with a hamper on a scale that weighs tonnage. The Town would receive one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per ton. A Google document would be created to keep track of the tonnage picked up and the monies generated. This program can be tailored for the schools or other entities such as the Senior Center, Ball Fields, or any other needs within the community. Contests can be run to motivate the school children to participate and earn even more money.

As the educational piece is very important, it is included. Ms. Larsen stated that Bay State Textile will go into the classrooms to educate the children regarding recycling textiles.

Kathryn Larsen is also available to meet with the Facilities Manager and tour each school to discuss the best placement of the collection boxes.

Concern was raised about the impact such a program would have upon the donations to Big Blue Bargains.

Ms. Larsen stated that in a similar situation in Beverly, Massachusetts, a Bootstrap store received more awareness as a result of the Bay State Textiles Recycling Rebate Program coming into town.

Although Ms. Larsen has been in contact with the School about installing textile bins at each school, the School preferred to do a pilot program with only one bin. Ms. Larsen indicated this would not be effective in reaping the desired benefits of collection. Marianne Hartmann, RN will approach the School Administration again to discuss the prospect of beginning a partnership with the Bay State Textiles Recycling Rebate Program.

Beach fire discussion was tabled as Alison Oxtan, RN, MSN, Board Member, was not present and the Conservation Commission is investigating whether this type of activity on beaches falls under the Wetland Protection Act and may need a Notice of Intent. The next Conservation Commission meeting is on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

Jeff Vaughan notified the Board that Custom Eye Care in Vinnin Square has gone out of business. The Health Department will have to change information about recycling eyeglasses at that location on pamphlets.

The District Incentive Regional Group (DIG) is in the process of making cleaning kits for school classrooms that will be more allergy and asthma friendly to educate and train the school nurses of the products available. Mary Beth O'Malley is the Lead Nurse. Jeff Vaughan will reach out to her.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, attended the Athletic Field Advisory Committee on Monday, July 18, 2016 and suggested that they look into using organic products offered by Chip Osbourne to maintain fields.

Martha Dansdill mentioned an article in today's Salem Evening News of the Drug Outreach in Peabody whereby a First Responder and clinician will visit homes of those struggling with addiction to provide support to addicts and family members, offer Narcan, and demonstrate how to use it.

Wicked Local contacted Ms. Dansdill in regards to a regional article on Zika, soon to be published. Ms. Dansdill directed the reporter to the Health Department website for current information from the CDC and DPH on advisories in regards to traveling to and returning from areas where Zika is found. She also explained that Swampscott is part of the Northeast Mosquito Control District and measures to reduce mosquito populations are taken each year such as larvaciding catch basins and wetland areas, as well as informing the public about removing standing water (breeding sites) from properties. According to an article published by NPR's Rob Stein 7/20/2016, to date there have been one thousand three hundred (1300) cases of Zika in the United States; none caused by a mosquito. Marianne Hartmann, RN, stated that the first case from a mosquito was detected today in Florida.

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The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall on 22 Monument Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.