

Town of Swampscott

Board of Health

Minutes to meeting May 3, 2018

Board of Health May 3, 2018 6:00 PM Attending Marianne Hartmann, Emily Ciley, Allison Oxtan were joined by Jeffrey Vaughan, Health Director with Linda Paster, recording. Marianne Hartmann made motion to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2018 meeting, voted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Pet Waste – Members of the Board of Health tried to form a sub-committee but were unable to get anyone to commit to the endeavor. Dog waste seems to be everywhere and is multiplying. Sports coaches have noticed an uptake to poop on fields and unleashed dogs. On the news in Canton MA there was a recent story of bags of poop being dropped in storm drains and clogging the system causing a 36,000-foot back-up to the storm drain. This back-up can cause a contaminated flood effect. Rose Cheever, Resource Officer contacted the school office and said there were approximately 40 bags of poop in the sand barrel. A person interviewed on the news about having her dog off leash stated she would be happy to pay a fine. Marblehead has 1 ½ animal control officers and summer help for ticketing. Girl Scouts are doing a silver award on “poop” and have made a video that will be shown at Town Meeting noting the toxicity of dog waste. There is a sign stating that dogs are not allowed on the Little League field, however, the town by-law is silent to the issue. Adults congregate after school drop-off to let their dogs run free, again no oversight. It was suggested that a Dog Park might help with dogs running free. Marianne Hartmann stated what they really need is a stronger by-law enacted by Town Meeting making an enforceable by-law, clear signage, and a full time Animal Control Officer. The fines levied by the full-time Animal Control Officer could self-fund the position. A resident at the meeting stated that the violations are mostly occurring off hours, such as after school drop-off and would suggest making fines steep enough to pay for enforcement and to fund a dog park. Marianne Hartmann suggested that coaches could carry cards with them of the by-law education. Jeff Vaughan, Health Director stated that they have put signs up at both Humphrey and Phillips and when on the way home, checked only to find that they are gone. He has received complaints that a dog-walker put dog waste in someone’s barrel. An increase in police presence might be helpful. Allison Oxtan that it might help in the short term to mention at Town Meeting that putting waste into someone’s private trash barrel is unacceptable. Emily Ciley stated she would be willing to work on an educational card to pass out.

Smoking Vaping Fine

The Board of Health made regulations and appointed school personnel to give out tickets, the Principal and another staff member. Under MGL 21E this is a non-criminal offense. No smoking in public buildings is a law. Emily Ciley volunteered to follow-up on this matter.

PLASTIC BAGS

The Board of Health had been working on a plastic bag ban and was unaware that Town Meeting had this on the warrant sponsored by Selectman, essentially stating “no business can use plastic bags” The produce bags are not included in the ban.

Emily Cilley made a motion to vote in favor of the Plastic Bag Ban as proposed at Town Meeting by the Board of Selectmen – Allison Oxtan seconded the motion confirmed by Marianne Hartmann, vote unanimous.

BEACH CLEAN UP

Allison Oxtan stated that the Beach Clean Up day was looking at the end of the school year with possibly July 8, 2018 as a plan for Fisherman’s, Kings, & Linscott Park as sites.

RECYCLING

Marianne Hartmann spoke in favor of a letter supporting Mandatory Recycling as proposed at Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Alison Oxtan would like to have an update on school wide Facility Management. Marianne Hartmann will ask Tom Prentiss for an update

Gun Violence - Massachusetts legislation regarding guns Walk Out Day at school was successful

Tick and Lyme education - Last year’s Tick Talk sponsored by the Board of Health had twelve people in attendance. This education is important and needs to continue.

Motion was made by Alison Oxtan to continue Marianne Hartmann as Board of Health Chairperson, voted Unanimous. Congratulations

The Health Department will meet on the first night of Town Meeting at 6:30 pm

Health Director Report

Hazardous Waste will be collected June 2, 2018 in conjunction with Marblehead

This years round of annual permitting has begun several food permit inspections have taken place and all have passed.

Next Meeting May 21, 2018 at Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Paster.